

## Dark Days

### Weeping Pistorius faces life in prison

South African athlete Oscar Pistorius reacts, in court in Pretoria, South Africa, Friday, Feb 15, 2013, at his bail hearing in the murder case of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. Prosecutors said they'll pursue a charge of premeditated murder against Pistorius in the killing of Steenkamp, which is punishable up to life in prison.

(AP Photo/Antione de Ras)

**GERALD IMRAY  
JON GAMBRELL**  
**Associated Press**  
**PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)**  
— Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius wept in court Friday as prosecutors said they'll pursue a charge of premeditated murder

against him in the killing of his model girlfriend, meaning the man who once inspired the world could spend the rest of his life in prison. Pistorius' family and London-based management issued a statement disputing the murder

charge he now faces for the slaying of Reeva Steenkamp. The athlete himself initially appeared solemn and collected in his first court appearance, but later sobbed loud enough for his cries to be heard over the more than 100 specta-

tors gathered for the hearing. His tears even drew the attention of Chief Magistrate Desmond Nasir, who at one point simply said: "Take it easy."

Continued on Page 11

## PROOF OF LIFE



In this photo released Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez poses with his daughters at an unknown location in Havana, Cuba.

(AP Photo/MPPO)

**IAN JAMES**  
**Associated Press**  
**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**  
— The world got its first glimpse of Hugo Chavez since he underwent a fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba more than two months ago, with photos released Friday showing the Venezuelan leader alongside his daughters in Havana. Along with images of the puffy-faced Chavez came a government explanation for why no one has heard from the longtime president since his surgery: He's breathing through a tracheal tube that makes speech difficult. Chavez's government described his condition as "delicate" and said he continues to undergo "vigorous treatment for his fundamental illness." The images and new details filled a vacuum of information about Chavez's condition that has spurred rampant speculation in Venezuela. Government officials say Chavez has been recovering in Cuba since undergoing cancer surgery on Dec. 11.

The four photos show Chavez reclining on what appears to be a bed, a blue pillow behind his head.

Continued on Page 2



## Photos of Chavez surface after two month absence

**Continued from front**

He smiles broadly, while his daughters Rosa and Maria lean in close to him.

Three of the images show Chavez looking at Thursday's issue of the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma, his daughters still flanking him. Chavez's son-in-law, Science and Technology Minister Jorge Arreaza, showed the photos on Venezuelan state television.

Speculation has been widespread in Venezuela about Chavez's condition, with the president not publicly seen or heard from since he left for Cuba on Dec. 10. During previous treatments in Havana, Chavez spoke on Venezuelan TV or appeared in photos.

Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said Friday that the tracheal tube makes talking difficult for Chavez. "After two months of a complicated post-operative process, the patient remains conscious, with his intellectual functions in-

Chavez has overcome a respiratory infection that arose after the surgery, "although a certain grade of (breathing) insufficiency persists."

"Given that circumstance, which is being duly treated, Comandante Chavez is currently breathing through a tracheal cannula, which temporarily hinders speech," Villegas said. Villegas also said Chavez's doctors are "applying vigorous treatment for his fundamental illness," an apparent reference to cancer. He said that treatment "isn't free of complications."

Government opponents have been demanding more information about Chavez's condition, and have asked why he hasn't spoken to the nation to explain his condition.

Dr. Carlos Castro, scientific director of the Colombian League Against Cancer in Bogota, said that based on the government's accounts, Chavez appears to have been breathing with the help of a respirator for



**A man sells prints at 20 bolivars each, about 3.00 U.S. dollars, of one of the photographs released Friday by the Venezuelan government showing President Hugo Chavez with his daughters Maria Gabriela, left, and Rosa Virginia, right, at Bolivar square in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013. Amid widespread speculation and rumors in Venezuela about Chavez's delicate condition following his Dec. 11 cancer surgery, the government released the first photos of the ailing president in more than two months on Friday.**

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

tact, in close communication with his government team," Villegas said, reading from a statement on television.

Villegas reiterated that

an extended period after the surgery.

"After some days, it's mandatory to perform a tracheotomy so that he can breathe," Castro said. □



**A circular hole in the ice of Chebarkul Lake where a meteor reportedly struck the lake near Chelyabinsk, about 1500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Moscow, Russia, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.**

(AP Photo)

## With the force of 20 atomic bombs: Meteor shocks Russia; 1,100 injured

**JIM HEINTZ  
V. ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)** — With a blinding flash and a booming shock wave, a meteor blazed across the western Siberian sky Friday and exploded with the force of 20 atomic bombs, injuring more than 1,000 people as it blasted out windows and spread panic in a city of 1 million.

While NASA estimated the meteor was only about the size of a bus and weighed an estimated 7,000 tons, the fireball it produced was dramatic.

Video shot by startled residents of the city of Chelyabinsk showed its streaming contrails as it arced toward the horizon just after sunrise, looking like something from a world-ending science-fiction movie.

The largest recorded meteor strike in more than a century occurred hours before a 150-foot asteroid passed within about 17,000 miles (28,000 kilometers) of Earth. The European Space Agency said its experts had determined there was no connection between the asteroid and the Russian meteor — just cosmic coincidence.

The meteor above western Siberia entered the Earth's atmosphere about 9:20 a.m. local time (10:20 p.m. EST Thursday) at a hy-

personic speed of at least 33,000 mph (54,000 kph) and shattered into pieces about 30-50 kilometers (18 to 32 miles) high, the Russian Academy of Sciences said. NASA estimated its speed at about 40,000 mph, said it exploded about 12 to 15 miles high, released 300 to 500 kilotons of energy and left a trail 300 miles long.

"There was panic. People had no idea what was happening," said Sergey Hametov of Chelyabinsk, about 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Moscow in the Ural Mountains.

"We saw a big burst of light, then went outside to see what it was and we heard a really loud, thundering sound," he told The Associated Press by telephone.

The shock wave blew in an estimated 100,000 square meters (more than 1 million square feet) of glass, according to city officials, who said 3,000 buildings in Chelyabinsk were damaged. At a zinc factory, part of the roof collapsed. The Interior Ministry said about 1,100 people sought medical care after the shock wave and 48 were hospitalized. Most of the injuries were caused by flying glass, officials said.

Scientists estimated the meteor unleashed a force 20 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb,

although the space rock exploded at a much higher altitude. Amy Mainzer, a scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said the atmosphere acted as a shield.

The shock wave may have shattered windows, but "the atmosphere absorbed the vast majority of that energy," she said.

Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Vladimir Purgin said many of the injured were cut as they flocked to windows to see what caused the intense flash of light, which momentarily was brighter than the sun.

There was no immediate word on any deaths or anyone struck by space fragments.

President Vladimir Putin summoned the nation's emergencies minister and ordered immediate repairs. "We need to think how to help the people and do it immediately," he said.

Some meteorite fragments fell in a reservoir outside the town of Chebarkul, the regional Interior Ministry office said. The crash left an eight-meter (26-foot) crater in the ice.

Lessons had just started at Chelyabinsk schools when the meteor exploded, and officials said 258 children were among those injured.

□



# Congress slams North Korea, seeks more sanctions

**MATTHEW PENNINGTON**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Congress is weighing in on international condemnation of North Korea's nuclear test, and Republicans are calling on the Obama administration to revamp its policy and take a tougher stance against Pyongyang.

The House of Representatives passed a bipartisan resolution Friday by a 412-to-2 vote, calling for the U.S. to work with other countries to impose additional sanctions on North Korea. It also urged China to pressure the North to curtail its nuclear and missile programs and prevent the transshipment of technology that could be used for those programs through Chinese territory.

Washington is currently negotiating in the U.N. Security Council for stronger sanctions against Pyongyang after the council quickly condemned Tuesday's underground atomic blast, the third conducted by the North since 2006. The

North said it was responding to what it called a U.S. threat and has warned of further, unspecified mea-

sured Friday that more provocation, like another nuclear test, would only further isolate the North.

cooperation with our allies South Korea and Japan," said Rep. Eliot Engel, top Democrat on the House

a ways off its goal of having a nuclear weapon that threatens the U.S. International sanctions bar



South Korean army K-9 self-propelled guns fire live rounds during an exercise at Fire Training Field in Cheorwon, South Korea, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lee Sang-hack, Yonhap)

sures of "greater intensity" if Washington remains hostile — possibly signaling further tests if sanctions are tightened further.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland

"In the face of this aggression, Congress and the American people, Democrats and Republicans alike, will remain vigilant in punishing the North Korean regime and strengthening

panel that oversees foreign policy.

Republicans in particular are calling for stiffer action to rein in Pyongyang, which has made major advances but still appears

North Korea from the arms trade and blacklist specific companies, but lawmakers complain the restrictions have done little to impede the North's weapons development. □

# Swedish photographer wins World Press Photo award

**TOBY STERLING**  
**Associated Press**

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — Swedish photographer Paul Hansen won the 2012 World Press Photo award Friday for newspaper Dagens Nyheter with a picture of two Palestinian children killed in an Israeli missile strike being carried to their funeral.

The picture shows a group of men marching the dead bodies through a narrow street in Gaza City. The victims, a brother and sister, are wrapped in white cloth with only their faces showing.

"The strength of the pictures lies in the way it contrasts the anger and sorrow of the adults with the innocence of the children," said jury member Mayu Mohanna of Peru. "It's a picture I will not forget."

World Press Photo, one of photojournalism's most prestigious contests, issued

awards in nine categories to 54 photographers of 32 nationalities.

Hansen's Nov. 20 shot won

and her 3-year-old brother Muhammad, who were killed when their house was destroyed by the Israeli at-

very happy, but also very sad. The family lost two children and the mother is unconscious in a hospital."



the year by Paul Hansen, Sweden, for Dagens Nyheter, shows two-year-old Suhaib Hijazi and her three-year-old brother Muhammad who were killed when their house was destroyed by an Israeli missile strike.

(AP Photo/Paul Hansen, Dagens Nyheter)

top prize in both the spot news single photograph category and the overall competition. It portrays 2-year-old Suhaib Hijazi

tack.

"This prize is the highest honor you can get in the profession," Hansen told The Associated Press. "I'm

"These situations are so visually complex," he added. "It's difficult to convey the emotions, to translate what is happening. The

light is harsh and there are a lot of people.

"But in the alley the light bounced off the walls, so I thought this is a place where you can see that it's a procession. ... You get the depth in the image, and the bouncing light."

Violence in the Middle East, and its effect upon civilians, was the dominant theme in the hard news categories.

The photos were submitted anonymously to a panel of 19 jury members, chaired by AP Director of Photography Santiago Lyon, and judged in multiple rounds.

The winners were all "stellar examples of first-rate photojournalism," Lyon said.

Other judges came from Germany, Iraq, Peru, France, Sweden, China, Britain, Spain, Azerbaijan, South Africa, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the U.S. □



# Cruise passengers became comrades on trip home

B. FARRINGTON  
JAY REEVES

Associated Press

MOBILE, Alabama (AP) — When their cruise ship lost power, passengers aboard the Carnival Triumph could have been selfish and looked out only for themselves and their loved ones. Instead, they became comrades in a long, exhausting struggle to get home. As ship conditions deteriorated after an engine fire, travelers formed Bible study groups, shared or traded precious supplies and even welcomed strangers into their private cabins. Long after they've returned to the everyday luxuries of hot showers and cold drinks, passengers said, they will remember the crew and the personal

bonds formed during a cruel week at sea.

The tired tourists finally reached land Friday and gave a glimpse into the intensely uncomfortable journey they had endured. Sandy Jackson was fortunate to have an upper-level room with a balcony and a breeze that kept the air in her cabin fresh. Rooms on the lower decks were too foul or stifling, so Jackson took in five people, including four strangers.

"We knew one, the others we're very good friends with now," Jackson said. "Everyone was very cordial in sharing supplies. What you had and they didn't have, everyone shared as much as possible."

Brandi Dorsett said people were antsy and irritable at



Passengers from the Carnival ship Triumph, all wearing their Carnival bathrobes, head to their cars after arriving in Galveston, Texas from Mobile, Ala. on Friday Feb. 15, 2013. Hundreds of passengers opted to take an eight-hour bus ride to Galveston from Mobile. Galveston is the home port of the ill-fated ship, which lost power in an engine-room fire Sunday some 150 miles off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula.

(AP Photo/Jennifer Reynolds)

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times, and there was tension. But it never got out of hand. "People were bartering. Can I have your cereal for this? Can I have your drink for that?" she said. "We had one lady, she was begging for cigarettes for diapers. There were no diapers on the boat. There was no formula on the boat." The ship left Galveston, Texas, on Feb. 17 for a four-day jaunt to Cozumel, Mexico. The fire paralyzed the ship early Sunday, leaving it adrift in the Gulf of Mexico until tugboats towed the massive 14-story vessel to Mobile. It arrived late Thursday to cheers and flashing cameras. Passengers had to wait several more hours to disembark.

Many of the more than 4,200 people aboard were bused to New Orleans to catch a flight home or to the ship's home port in Galveston. And as if they hadn't suffered enough, one of the buses broke down during the two-hour ride to New Orleans. Passengers on a different bus reported losing their luggage. But that was nothing com-

pared to life on the crippled cruise liner. To pass the time, Joseph Alvarez said about 45 people gathered in a public room on the lower deck for Bible study. "It was awesome," he said. "It lifted up our souls and gave us hope that we would get back."

Because many passengers were sleeping on the outside deck, Dwayne Chapman used his pocket knife to cut decorative rope to make tents out of bed sheets. At first, other passengers told him they thought he was going to get in trouble, but later, everyone wanted to borrow his knife to do the same thing.

"I really think we've made some lifelong friends going through this ordeal," Chapman's wife, Kim, said. When it was over, many passengers were just grateful for simple pleasures. After days of warm drinks, Cheryl McIntosh and her husband were glad to see coolers full of ice.

"The first thing we did was open up those Diet Cokes and we drank some," McIntosh said. □



# Obama in Chicago exhorts 'ladders of opportunity'

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Pressing his case in the town that launched his political career, President Barack Obama called Friday for the government to take an active, wide-ranging role in ensuring every American has a "ladder of opportunity" into the middle class. Speaking at Hyde Park Academy in Chicago, Obama sought support for proposals, unveiled this week in his State of the Union address, to increase the federal minimum wage and ensure every child can attend preschool. He also pitched plans to pair businesses with recession-battered communities to help them rebuild and provide job training. "In too many neighborhoods today, whether here in Chicago or in the farthest reaches of rural America, it can feel like for a lot of young people the future only extends to the next street corner or the outskirts of town, that no matter how much you work or how hard you try, your destiny was determined the moment you were born," Obama said.

Ensuring that no child is denied the ability to go as far as his or her talents will allow means removing some of the roadblocks from early in life, Obama said, calling for intensified efforts to promote healthier family environments. He called for removing financial disincentives to marry and reforming child support laws in hopes that more children will grow up in stable homes — and, specifically, with a responsible father in the picture. Holding himself up as an

example, Obama reflected on the absence of his father during his childhood, but said he had advantages not enjoyed by others, such as the at-risk young men from an anti-violence school program he met just after arriving in Chicago. "I had issues, too, when I was their age. I just had an environment that was a little more forgiving. I had more of a safety net," he said.

Obama also pledged to partner with 20 of the country's hardest-hit communities to "get them back in the game." He said his administration would work with local leaders to cut through red tape, targeting neighborhoods pulled down by the weight of violent crime to help reduce crime using methods that have been proven to work.

The Chicago swing was a warm homecoming for Obama, just three days after delivering the first State of the Union address of his second term as president. Joining Obama at the school were many of the Illinois Democrats he worked with as a state senator, plus his former chief of staff, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "This is where Michelle and I first met, where we fell in love," Obama said, prompting sitcom-style oohs from children in the audience. "It's good to be home."

Since the Tuesday speech, Obama has traveled to a new town each day, fleshing out the proposals he included in his address and asking the American public to get behind them. On Wednesday, he traveled to Asheville, N.C., to make the case for raising

the minimum wage. On Thursday, he flew to the Atlanta suburb of Decatur, Ga., to push his proposal to provide preschool for all

for his proposals begins. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, seemed unmoved by Obama's appeals to raise the minimum

have also been highly skeptical of his plans to expand preschool and enact an assault-weapons ban, claiming these and other



President Barack Obama acknowledges the crowd as he exchanges fist bumps with the audience after speaking at Hyde Park Academy, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013, in Chicago.

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

4-year-olds. But once Obama returns to Washington next week, the tough task of gathering congressional support

wage from \$7.25 to \$9 to help workers paid at that rate escape poverty. Doing so, Boehner said, would cost jobs. Republicans

proposals represent a misguided attempt to expand government's reach into areas best left to individuals and states. □

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# Hagel delay gives opposition time to refine attack

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The weeklong U.S. Senate recess gives outside interest groups opposed to Chuck Hagel's nomination as defense secretary more time to sharpen their attack against President Barack Obama's choice. They're promising to scour Hagel's record and to pressure senators to vote against him. While Senate Republicans have succeeded in delaying a confirmation vote on Hagel's nomination, they signaled that they would eventually relent and allow a vote after they return from their recess on Feb. 25. But that leaves an uncomfortable gap for Hagel and the White House, which doesn't want any surprises that would further delay or possibly derail an already difficult confirmation. Hagel's nomination was met with intense opposition from fellow Republicans, including former colleagues in the Senate, who challenged his past statements and votes on Israel, Iran, Iraq and nuclear weapons. Even if Hagel is confirmed,

his relations with Republicans could be colder than the Obama administration might have hoped. In choosing Hagel, a twice-wounded Vietnam combat veteran, the White House expected him to be an asset, not a liability, among

think through this process he's been weakened, and it might be better to just go back to the drawing board," House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon told reporters on Friday. White House spokesman

"the Jewish lobby" and opposition to a military strike against Iran antagonized pro-Israel groups. The Emergency Committee for Israel said it will continue to try to convince a majority of senators that there are better choices to lead the U.S. armed forces and manage the federal government's largest bureaucracy.

"The nomination process has moved faster than the disclosure process, and it's likely we still don't know everything we should about Hagel's record," said Noah Pollak, the group's executive director. "The upcoming week is a chance to catch up." The Republican-leaning Americans for a Strong Defense also plans to take full advantage of the break. Spokesman Ryan Williams said the organization is stepping up a campaign to flood Senate offices with calls from constituents who want to see Hagel's nomination rejected. It also will push for greater disclosure of financial information about Hagel's paid speeches and foreign donors to private organizations and businesses that he was affiliated with after he left the Senate in 2009. Hagel's criticism of Republican President George W. Bush's administration simmers beneath

any policy disagreements, Earnest told reporters traveling aboard Air Force One. Earnest read a transcript of an interview Sen. John McCain, a Republican, gave to Fox News on Thursday in which McCain said "there's a lot of ill will" toward Hagel because he "attacked President Bush mercilessly" and said the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq "was the worst blunder since the Vietnam War."

"He was anti-his own party and people," McCain said. "People don't forget that." McCain and fellow Sen. Lindsay Graham had been blocking Hagel's confirmation until they received information from the White House on when Obama contacted Libyan officials after the attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi last September, in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed. The White House responded to the question Thursday, but that did not stop Republicans from blocking a confirmation vote on Hagel, at least temporarily.

"I would argue that this man's record, when it comes to Iran and Israel, and statements he has made, puts him well out of the mainstream," Graham said. □



Senate Armed Services Committee members, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. confer on Capitol Hill in Washington. The two Republicans have been vocal in their opposition to the nomination of Chuck Hagel to be the next secretary of defense.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Republicans who are often critical of Obama's national security policies. "You need a strong secretary of defense, and I

Josh Earnest said the delay was a political tactic and that Obama is still confident Hagel will be confirmed. "I wouldn't be surprised if there are additional politics that are injected into this circumstance," he said. "It is extremely unfortunate." While Hagel has said he's a strong supporter of Israel, his past reference to

## Jackson Jr. charged in misuse of funds

MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

© 2013 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** — The Justice Department filed fraud and conspiracy charges Friday against former Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr., saying that he used about \$750,000 in campaign money for personal expenses that included a Michael Jackson fedora and cashmere capes.

The 10-page document filed in federal court by prosecutors in Washington offered details of Jackson's use of campaign money. He has agreed to plead guilty to the charges, although a date for him to accept the plea deal before a judge has not yet been set.

Jackson's wife, Sandra Stevens, was also charged with one count of filing false tax returns.

According to the documents, Jackson also used the campaign money to buy memorabilia related to Bruce Lee, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Jimi Hendrix, as well as a mink parka.

In a written statement, Jackson apologized to his family, friends and supporters for his "errors in judgment."

"Over the course of my life I have come to realize that none of us are immune from our share of shortcomings and human frailties," he said. "Still I offer no

excuses for my conduct, and I fully accept my responsibility for the improper decisions and mistakes I have made."

He added, "While my journey is not yet complete, it is my hope that I am remembered for the things that I did right."

Jackson, the son of the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, resigned in November, shortly after winning re-election to Congress. He took a medical leave in June and was treated for bipolar disorder.

A primary is scheduled for Feb. 26 to fill his seat. The district includes the South Side of Chicago and southern suburbs. □



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## Love, or something, was in the air at wastewater plant

LISA W. FODERARO

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NEW YORK — David Nelson had a Valentine's Day surprise for his girlfriend. He was so excited, however, that he let his intentions slip during dinner the night before.

"He spilled the beans," said his girlfriend, Heather Weed, 25, a civil engineer who was dressed for the holiday on Thursday in a red-and-pink-striped sweater and red shoelaces.

"But we had talked about it before," Nelson, an urban planner, pointed out a little defensively.

No, it wasn't a marriage proposal. It was a tour of New York City's Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

The couple, who share a cozy one-bedroom in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, held hands during a lecture on the five steps of sewage treatment. ("Here's the magic," Jim Pynn, the plant superintendent, said of Step 3: "Biological treatment.") Afterward, they took in the city views from the observation deck atop one of the giant stainless steel "digester eggs," where sludge is stabilized during a 15-day process. Love was certainly in the air Thursday. Or was that the sewage?

For scores of New Yorkers who wanted to commemorate Valentine's Day without the usual hearts and flowers, the city's Department of Environmental Protection had just the token of affection.

For the second year in a

row, it offered free Valentine's tours of the Newtown Creek plant, the largest of its 14 wastewater treatment facilities.

To some, the tours proved as irresistible as a dark-chocolate truffle. Citing

of sculpture, with its eight egglike pods visible for miles.

The plant, which dates to 1967, has undergone a \$5 billion overhaul in recent years and was honored by the New York City Art Com-

mission, Pynn traced the history of wastewater treatment from the city's earliest days to the present. Now, the city treats more than 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater daily, from toilets, washing machines, sinks and,

sludge inside each digester egg, Shawn Killebrew, a television editor, leaned in to kiss his wife, Courtenay Kendall, a TV producer. Knowing that his wife scoffs at Valentine's Day, Killebrew had simply asked her to take the day off from work.

She still did not know where they were going as he led her from the subway to the treatment plant.

"I told him I would run if there was one ounce of romance," she said after the tour.

"This beats dinner in a restaurant any day."

Then why all the snuggling? "When it's an unromantic situation, we get romantic," Killebrew said.

For Joseph Szabo, who works as a machinist for the Department of Environmental Protection in Red Hook, Brooklyn, the tour was a way to share something of his occupation with his wife of 20 years, Erika.

She more than rose to the occasion.

"It's gorgeous," she said. "It's unbelievable. I would never think this was romantic, but it is."

Not everyone was so lucky in love. Jose Fernandez, 30, a filmmaker visiting from Mexico, had arranged to take the tour with his girlfriend, an art student in Manhattan. But she canceled at the last minute, saying that she had a class. Jilted at the plant, he went on the tour alone.

Fernandez was trying not to let his disappointment show. "I'm meeting her for lunch," he said. "And I took a lot of pictures." □



**Shawn Killebrew and his wife, Courtenay Kendall, who have been married for 10 years, during a tour of the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in New York, Feb. 14, 2013. For scores of New Yorkers who wanted to commemorate Valentine's Day without the usual hearts and flowers, the city's Department of Environmental Protection offered free tours of the plant.**

(Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times)

demand, the department added a third 75-person tour at the last minute; all three were filled to capacity. "It's a unique way to spend Valentine's Day, but it's also a great opportunity to learn about the wastewater process," a department spokesman, Christopher Gilbride, said.

But the day was not entirely about catch basins and combined sewer overflows. The complex in some ways resembles a gleaming work

mission. At night, the eggs are bathed in blue light, the handiwork of the lighting designer Herve Descottes. There is even a visitor center where an exuberant fountain courses through the lobby.

Those elements appealed to the urban planner in Nelson, if not the romantic. "It's not only a great public investment in infrastructure," he said. "It's a great public space."

Using a PowerPoint pre-

sentation, Pynn traced the history of wastewater treatment from the city's earliest days to the present. Now, the city treats more than 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater daily, from toilets, washing machines, sinks and,

sludge inside each digester egg, Shawn Killebrew, a television editor, leaned in to kiss his wife, Courtenay Kendall, a TV producer. Knowing that his wife scoffs at Valentine's Day, Killebrew had simply asked her to take the day off from work.

She still did not know where they were going as he led her from the subway to the treatment plant.





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## Pakistani tribesmen pushing Taliban to talk peace

KATHY GANNON  
 Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)

— Five years after setting up an umbrella organization to unite violent militant groups in the nation's tribal regions, the Pakistani Taliban is fractured, strapped for cash and losing support of local tribesmen frustrated by a protracted war that has forced thousands from their homes, analysts and residents say.

The temperamental chief of the group known as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Hakimullah Mehsud, recently offered to start peace talks with the government, raising the prospect of a negotiated end to Pakistan's war against insurgents in a lawless region that runs the length of the border with Afghanistan.

The group's offer of sanctuary to Afghanistan's Taliban has been one of the most divisive issues in U.S.-Pakistan relations and has confounded efforts to get the upper hand against Afghan insurgents after more than 11 years of war.

Pakistan denies providing outright military and financial help to militants fighting in Afghanistan. With 120,000 Pakistani soldiers deployed in the tribal regions, Pakistan has waged its own bloody battle against insurgents that has left more than 4,000 soldiers dead.

In interviews with analysts, residents and militant experts, Mehsud's network has emerged as a narrow collection of insurgents — often with links to criminal gangs — that has only limited influence in a vast tribal region overrun by scores of insurgent groups led by commanders with disparate agendas and varying



**Pakistani Taliban patrol their stronghold of Shawal in the Pakistani tribal region of South Waziristan. Five years after setting up an umbrella organization to unite a violent symphony of militant groups operating in Pakistan's tribal regions, the Pakistani Taliban is fractured, strapped for cash and losing the support of a local population that is frustrated by a protracted war that has forced thousands out of their homes, say analysts and residents of the area.**

(AP Photo/ Ishtiaq Mahsud)

loyalties.

Rather than a precursor to peace, Mehsud's offer to talk peace is an attempt to regain stature, silence critics and gain concessions from a weak government heading into nationwide elections, according to those familiar with the militant organization.

Taliban spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan has repeatedly denied reports of divisions within the TTP, including reported challenges to Mehsud's leadership.

But Amir Rana, director of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies, said Mehsud's offer to talk was an attempt to divert attention from internal rifts that are ripping the organization apart and diminishing its influence. Meshud speaks for fighters restricted to his own tribe, based in North and South Waziristan, he said.

"There is a lot of tension within the TTP. This peace offer I think basically

comes from Hakimullah Mehsud and the Mehsud commanders," Rana said. Some of his most powerful commanders have broken away and set up their own fiefdoms in other parts of the tribal area, he said.

Mehsud's fighters are believed to number in the thousands, but there are no reliable figures to measure the size of his force. Former intelligence officials, Taliban and residents of the area say Mehsud

also has a large number of foreign fighters in his North Waziristan hideouts. Many are Uzbeks and other Central Asians belonging to the outlawed Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and mostly disliked by local residents. "The Taliban's offer for peace talks is more of a ploy to gain legitimacy and a public relations tactic than a sincere move to end violence," militant expert and author Zahid Hussain wrote in a local newspaper this week. Hussain portrayed Mehsud's Taliban as killers and criminals who are demanding negotiations on their own terms, including the release of prisoners who spearheaded the 2009 Taliban takeover of the Swat region in northeastern Pakistan and who admitted beheading opponents. In brazen disregard for Pakistani law, the video in which they offered peace talks featured convicted killer Adnan Rashid, who escaped from death row during a jailbreak by the Taliban last year. □



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**Syria:**

## Clashes near airport kill 150

**BASSEM MROUE**  
**Associated Press**  
**BEIRUT (AP)** —

Intense clashes between the Syrian army and rebel fighters near the country's second-largest airport killed around 150 people in recent days, anti-regime activists said Friday, pointing to the significance both sides in the country's civil war place on controlling key infrastructure.

The battle for the international airport near Aleppo, Syria's largest city, resembles other battles over strategic assets that could provide an edge in the larger fight for the country. This week, rebels seized a hydroelectric dam and a major oil field, cutting off President Bashar Assad's regime from key resources necessary for its long term survival. On Friday, activists also reported that rebels seized an air defense base and fought near two other army installations in Syria's north.

Rebels have been trying for months to capture

Aleppo's international airport, which lies east of the city in a complex with a smaller military airfield and an army base charged with protecting the area.

The base, home to the Syrian army's 80th Brigade, fell to rebel forces on Wednesday, and fighting has continued over the airports since, with both sides shelling each other's positions. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Friday that some 150 people had been killed in the fighting over the last two days, roughly half of them rebels and half of them government troops. "The operation will continue until we control the airport and Nairab," Col. Abdul-Jabbar al-Aqidi, commander of the rebels' Military Council in Aleppo, told pan-Arab Al-Arabiya TV.

If the rebels were to capture the two airports, it would be a symbolic blow to the regime and could shift the strategic balance in northern Syria. □

**Egypt:**

## Islamists rally against opposition



**Tarek el-Zomor, a founding member of Gama'a Islamiyya, also leader and founder of the Building and Development Party, who was convicted with others of planning the assassination of late President Anwar Sadat in 1981, talks during a rally outside Cairo University in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

**AYA BATRAWY**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Several thousand hard-line Islamists rallied in Cairo on Friday against a recent wave of violent anti-government protests, while liberal activists staged a smaller demonstration across town to call for accountability and justice from the country's leaders.

The parallel rallies mirror

the deep divisions that have plagued Egypt in the two years since longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak's ouster, leaving the country's politics polarized, its people frustrated and its economy battered by the continuous turmoil.

The current cycle of unrest erupted three weeks ago around the second anniversary of the uprising that toppled Mubarak. The op-

position accuses Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, who was elected in June, and his Muslim Brotherhood party of trying to monopolize power and of using violence against dissenters.

In the latest accusation, activists of the Free Front for Peaceful Change say one of their members, Ibrahim Hanafi, was abducted by three men in a white microbus who poured boiling water on his back before dumping him on the side of the road.

"They told me to stay away from the Brotherhood and politics, and just worry about putting food on the table," Hanafi says in a the video uploaded to YouTube Thursday.

Brotherhood spokesmen could not be immediately reached for comment.

The president and his backers insist that the opposition's relentless protests calling for reform have hurt the economy and have made implementing changes impossible. □

## Dutch authorities raiding butchers for horsemeat

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Dutch prosecutors say food safety experts have raided a meat processing plant as part of a criminal investigation into horsemeat fraud. Prosecutors said Friday the company in North Brabant province is believed to have processed horsemeat from the Netherlands and Ireland, and mixed it with

beef before selling the mixture as "pure" beef.

Prosecutors said in a statement the company is suspected of "fraud and money laundering." The company was not named, in line with Dutch privacy laws. Food safety investigators raided business premises and a home, seized documents and took samples of meat for analysis. □

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## Putin urges G20 ministers to consider social cost

**N. VASILYEVA**  
**Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Friday called on financial chiefs of the world's leading industrial and developing nations to consider the political and social implications of their crucial policy decisions. Putin was hosting financial ministers and heads of central banks of the G20 group of nations ahead of their key meeting this weekend. The Russian President told the gathering that finan-

cial authorities around the world should be aware of the political consequences as well as social implications on "various groups of the society" that many financial decisions lead to. "I urge you to consider not only what is necessary in the (financial) terms but also think about what is actually feasible in the circumstances of our life and in each of our countries as well as in the economy at large," Putin said. Governments across Europe have introduced

harsh austerity measures in an attempt to control their debts. This has had a dampening effect on the countries' economies, leading to mass unemployment and broad public resistance.

Japanese yen, which now trades near a three-year low. Japan is facing charges that it is trying first and foremost to lower the value of the yen to stimulate its economy and get the

speculation the bank will create more money, thereby lowering its exchange rate.

If too many countries try to weaken their currencies for economic gain — sparking a so-called "currency war" — then the fragile global economic recovery could be derailed.

U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Lael Brainard on Friday warned the world's biggest economies against taking unilateral steps when it comes to exchange rates. "All the members of G20 need to deliver on a commitment to move towards a market-determined exchange rate and refrain from competitive devaluation," she said in a speech at a financial conference. "For the adjustment process to work globally, G20 members will have to bring their exchange rate frameworks into alignment so that we grow together and avoid a downward spiral of beggar-thy-neighbor policies," Brainard also warned about "loose talk about currencies".

When pressed by reporters whether she may have meant Japan, the U.S. officials said that she is not "singling out a particular country." Christine Lagarde, chief of the International Monetary Fund, dismissed the possibility of an international currency conflict, saying that "the current talk of currency war is overblown." IMF assessment "does not indicate any major deviation from the fair value of major currencies," she said. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to financial ministers and heads of central banks of the G20 group of nations ahead of their key meeting this weekend in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

The much-anticipated G20 meeting this Saturday is also expected to discuss the implications of countries using their currencies as an economic weapon. Markets have been concerned recently by developments affecting the

edge over other countries. The country's new government has recently set in motion several economic measures it hopes will kickstart its economy, including pushing the Bank of Japan to accept a higher inflation target. This has triggered



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## Weeping Pistorius faces life in prison

Continued from front

The double-amputee athlete's arrest stunned South

Nasir also ordered that no photographs be taken while court was in session. That left kneeling photographers less than a meter

explained. Police said Friday that investigators conducted an autopsy on Steenkamp's body. Lt. Col. Katlego Mo-

sages of support he has received — but as stated our thoughts and prayers today should be for Reeva and her family — regardless of the circumstances of this terrible, terrible tragedy," the statement read. South Africa continues to question itself over what to think about the shooting, with local newspaper headlines veering from the lurid to "Blade gunner?" on Friday morning, playing on Pistorius' nickname given for his running blades. The nation of 50 million has one of the world's highest rates of shooting deaths, behind

only Colombia. South Africa as a whole recently recoiled at the brutal gang rape and attack that killed a 17-year-old girl and many wore black Friday to demonstrate against the high levels of violence against women in the country. Others focused their attention on Pistorius, who is fascinated by fast cars, cage fighting and firearms. He crashed a speedboat in February 2009, breaking his nose, jaw and several ribs and damaging an eye socket. He later required 180 stitches to his face. □



Workers take down a billboard for the television channel M-Nel that featured paralympic champion runner Oscar Pistorius following his arrest, in Johannesburg. Pistorius was charged with murder after his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, was fatally shot in his home in Pretoria, according to South African police officials.

(Joao Silva/The New York Times)

Africa, which awoke the morning of Valentine's Day to hear that Steenkamp had been shot to death at Pistorius' home in a gated community in an eastern suburb of South Africa's capital, Pretoria. Police said investigators recovered a 9 mm pistol from the home.

In Pretoria Magistrate's Court on Friday, throngs of photographers, videographers and journalists besieged the brick-walled Courtroom C, where Pistorius appeared.

Nasir's first ruling in the matter focused on the press: He dismissed requests from a private television station and the state broadcaster to air the hearing live.

(three feet) from Pistorius to simply stare at a man some previously photographed sprinting on his famous carbon-fiber blades as he cried uncontrollably. Pistorius' brother, Carl, and his father, Henke, reached out at separate times to comfort him as he sat in the dock.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel said in court he would pursue a charge of premeditated murder against Pistorius for allegedly killing Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model known for her vamping, bikini pictures in men's magazines and appearances in cosmetics commercials. Police have said Steenkamp is 30. The discrepancy has not been

gale said the results of the autopsy would not be published.

Pistorius entered no plea at the hearing and his family left quickly, without speaking to journalists who followed them outside. In a statement later Friday, his family and management questioned the criminal charge the 26-year-old athlete faces.

"The alleged murder is disputed in the strongest terms," the statement read, without elaborating. The statement also said Pistorius wanted to "send his deepest sympathies to the family of Reeva."

"He would also like to express his thanks through us today for all the mes-

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## Global Economy:

# Countries using currencies as economic weapon

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — The world economy faces a new threat. Instead of a banking collapse or too much debt, fears are growing that countries are using their currencies as an economic weapon.

History suggests that's never a good thing.

If too many countries try to weaken their currencies for economic gain — sparking a “currency war” — that could stifle business confidence and investment, sow turmoil in financial

— Since the start of the financial crisis, central banks around the world have been trying to stimulate their economies by keeping interest rates extremely low. The goal is to encourage consumers and businesses to borrow and spend more. One way central banks drive down rates is to use their power to print money to buy up large quantities of bonds. But by boosting the amount of currency in circulation, there is a side effect: it can drive down the value of that currency relative to others.

as a signal that Japan's central bank is prepared to take actions that would result in driving down the yen, to boost exports and also put upward pressure on prices. Earlier this week, the yen fell to a 21-month low against the dollar and a near three-year trough against the euro.

### So is Japan actively trying to weaken the yen?

— Yes and no. Though it's not directly intervening in the foreign exchange markets by selling yen and buy-

in share prices.

### Why is that bad?

— A falling yen will help exporters, such as Sony and Toyota, and boost Japan's economy. And it will tend to push prices — and ultimately wages — higher. But if other countries respond to the falling yen by devaluing their currencies — to maintain the competitiveness of their own exports — Japan will be back to square one and the world economy could suffer. Sharp fluctuations in the value of currencies can hurt business confidence and investment. Prices for imported raw materials and components would be volatile, profits will be hard to come by as prices fluctuate wildly and the value of any investment a company makes in another country could quickly be wiped out.

### Who's been feeling the effect of Japan's actions so far?

— The euro, the single currency used by the 17-strong group of European Union countries, has seen the biggest move on the foreign exchange markets. As the region moved on from its crippling debt crisis last summer, the euro has slowly gained in value. But since the change of government in Japan, its value against leading currencies such as the yen and U.S. dollar has shot up — last December it was worth 113.19 yen and \$1.29 and now it's at 124.93 yen and \$1.33.

A rise in the value of the euro will do little to help the eurozone's businesses — and will hardly help getting it growing again. Figures Thursday showed that the economic output of the region shrank at an annualized rate of around 2.5 percent in the last quarter of 2012.

### What's been the reaction from other major economies?

— Politicians have voiced

concerns about the euro's rise versus other major currencies — most notably French President Francois Hollande, who indicated he was open to calls for a more managed exchange rate. European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said last week that the bank will monitor the economic impact of the euro's rising value. Several analysts took that to mean the ECB could cut interest rates to bolster growth, which in theory could weaken the euro — an indirect tit-for-tat response to the yen's fall, some say.

Earlier this week, the volatility in the currency markets prompted the Group of Seven leading industrial nations, which includes the U.S., Germany as well as Japan, to warn that volatile movements in exchange rates could adversely hit the global economy and to reaffirm their commitment to market-driven exchange rates.

### Might other countries try to manipulate their currencies in response to Japan?

— There is no sign of that — so far. But fixing the value of a currency is not without precedent.

In Sept. 2011, Switzerland took action to arrest the rise of its currency, the Swiss franc. The rise was triggered by the debt crisis in the eurozone — investors were looking for somewhere safe to park their cash and the Swiss franc has traditionally fulfilled that role. The Swiss intervention was viewed as an attempt to protect the country's exporters.

For years, U.S. politicians have accused China of keeping its currency, the renminbi, artificially weak in order to industrialize fast. And many countries believe the U.S. long ago abandoned the “strong dollar” policy at the core of the Clinton administration's economic policy in a dash for growth.



Traders work under a screen indicating the U.S. dollar is trading at 93.530 yen on the foreign exchange market in Tokyo. Against the dollar, the yen is near a three-year low and looks set to weaken further as the Bank of Japan falls into line with the new Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to break Japan's domestic economy out of its deflationary slump with very loose monetary policy - creating more money. One U.S. dollar is now buying more than 94 yen compared with 77-80 yen for much of 2012.

(AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye)

markets and derail a fragile global economy. Financial representatives from the world's leading 20 industrial and developing nations are gathering in Moscow for a meeting this weekend that looks set to be dominated by these concerns and they will have their work cut out to douse the fires.

### Why is everyone talking about currencies?

As a country's currency falls, its exports become cheaper, while those of its neighbors become relatively more expensive. Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is currently under the harshest spotlight. To get its economy motoring again after a two-decade bout of stagnation, the government has said it would like to see inflation move higher. Markets have interpreted this

ing other currencies, strong comments from the new Japanese government have convinced markets that the Bank of Japan will create more money. Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso insists the government isn't focused on exchange rates, but he has noted that the weakening yen has “brought huge benefits to the export sector” and that the world “has been awed” by the recent surge

Continued on page 27





## Windows on Aruba presents exciting Business Lunch menu!

**DRUIF BEACH** – Windows on Aruba overlooking the golf course at Divi Links continues to offer its exciting Business Lunch menu, to lovers of fine food, with an elegant champagne brunch on Sunday.

The menu is designed with the pressed-for-time business people or vacationers in mind, offering a delicious menu selection, which guarantees culinary satisfaction and time economy.

At Windows on Aruba power-lunch-goers and vacationers with a let's-do-it-all agenda may enjoy an excellent three-course meal in less than an hour, in a nicely air-conditioned, elegant dining room.

Executive Chef Paul Zijlstra reports that the ever-



mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables and lemon butter, and an exceptional Cowboy Steak, a bone-in rib eye steak, 18oz of juicy and tender prime beef, served with a red wine and cocktail onions sauce with roasted garlic, over mashed potatoes and vegetables.

Windows on Aruba delivers a delectable sampler with three different mini bites of Chef Zijlstra's famed sweets, for dessert.

Dutch-born Chef Zijlstra prides himself on the unique yet synergetic food combinations, which contribute to the fine dining experience at Windows on Aruba. Our patrons, he explains are more open minded to try different food combinations, which

makes our job in the kitchen both fun and exciting, meeting the and exceeding their gourmet expectations.

Windows on Aruba enjoys spectacular views of the signature 9th hole, and is known for its gracious service and comfortable interiors. The dining room is managed by Marco v/d Linden, a food & beverage veteran with many years of experience, on Aruba and in Europe.

Sunday Brunch continues to be a hit, with an endless a la carte menu of traditional and not-so-traditional brunch specialties served over Champagne and mimosa. The club house offers ample parking, allowing patrons to arrive in style, then catch



changing menu, at \$37.50 per person, delivers a gratifying culinary experience Monday thru Friday from 12 noon to 2:30pm. The restaurant serves an award winning menu for dinner nightly from 6pm to 11pm. In addition to the lunch menu selections, chef Zijlstra is famous for his seasonal dishes and creative

specials, inspired by food trends and availability of fresh market ingredients. This week's offerings for example, lists Cobia Fillet, a generous serving of black salmon, served with saffron risotto, white wine dill sauce, baby carrots and pock soy. Also a delicately sautéed Dover Sole, served with



the elevator to the second floor, sit back & relax!

Pictured here, Chef Zijlstra, and Marco v/d Linden presenting some of their attractive specials to the press, recently. Creative specials include a goat cheese appetizer, a roast chicken with exotic mushrooms main course, and a trio of sweets for dessert! □



# 30 Consecutive Years and Still Loving Aruba!



**PALM BEACH** - My name is Kev Kaye. Years ago, I wanted to get away from the cold, snowy and miserable weather in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. I visited many Caribbean Islands. In 1983, I first came to Aruba, and due to it being so clean and safe

with friendly inhabitants, with many great restaurants and fantastic warm and sunny weather, I have been coming here every February since. In 1983 there were around 70,000 tourists arriving to Aruba. Tourism has increased dramatically since then.

When I first came to Aruba I stayed at the Concord Hotel (Westin), then the next three years I stayed at the Manchebo, then for two years at the Bucuti, then nine years at the Holiday Inn, and for the past fifteen years I've stayed at the Quality

Apartments! There are eleven casinos on the island, and because the Excelsior Casino at the Holiday Inn has

nightly Hold'em Poker, it is my favorite! ARUBA will always be my home away from home in February! □

## Safe At Last!

**SANTA LUCIA** - Some two years ago the volunteers of the Donkey Sanctuary received a phone call: an accident had hap-

pened; they closed the gate and voilà. After that it was not an easy job to get the donkeys into the trailer to take them to



pened and donkeys were involved. At the site it appeared that one donkey had died and one wounded donkey had disappeared: he probably had a broken front leg. During two years the volunteers have moved Heaven and Earth to catch this specific donkey in the San Nicolas vicinity. Many inhabitants have made calls, helping the sanctuary to catch him. Two hundred calls about two donkeys, one of which had a broken leg. But even though he was handicapped, he escaped. Until the moment that the Kellner family in San Nicolas could lure him and his friend into their gar-

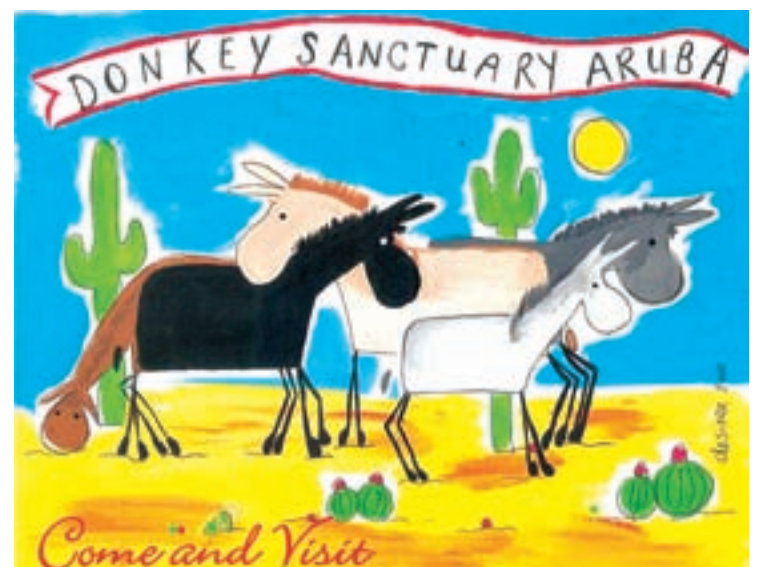
the sanctuary, but the project succeeded. The two were put into a secluded corral to quiet down and to get their bearings so that they could be transported to the clinic of veterinarian Dr. Contreras in Noord. For the other donkey also had something wrong with his leg and x-rays were needed. At the Sanctuary the two were named: Santa (you can clearly see the malformed front leg) and Waiter, after the Kellner family, as waiter is 'kelner' in Dutch. The most important thing is this: two wounded donkeys are finally safe at the Donkey Sanctuary on Aruba. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

**Megan Janer**  
She is from Michigan. Her first time in Aruba. She loves the Aruban Beach and local food.

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## On display at the Sculpture Garden at the Airport: The story behind Miriam de L'Isle's 'Dancing With the Wind'

- Symbolizing the strong union between Aruba, Holland and the USA

**ORANJESTAD** – In November of last year Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) proudly opened the Sculpture Garden at the airport to promote contemporary local art at the Queen Beatrix International Airport.

The Sculpture Garden contains 7 unique sculptures made by local artists.

One artist in particular, Miriam de L'Isle wanted to display the use of aluminium and stainless steel in her "Kinetic Art" creation. Kinetic Art is art that contains moving parts or depends on motion for its effect. "Dancing with the wind" consists of 25 aluminium squares encapsulated in a frame.

Each square rotates indi-

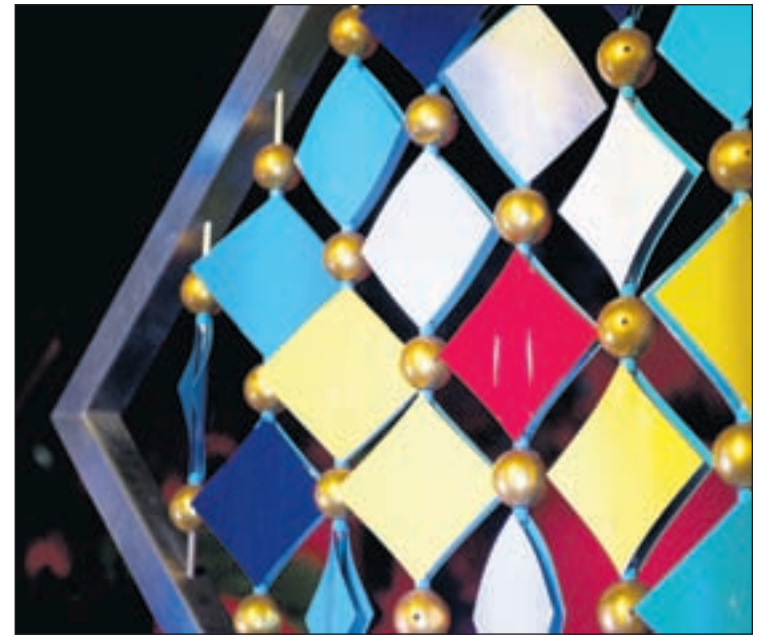


dually on its own axis while the whole sculpture also rotates on its own axis by the wind or by the gentle interaction of the observer.

The squares are painted in the colors red, white, blue on one side and turquoise blue, white, yellow and red

on the other side, symbolizing the flag of Holland and the US on one side and Aruba on the other side.

When the squares rotate the colors fuse into one another becoming a spectacle of color and movement, symbolizing the strong union between Aru-



ba, Holland and the US.

The base of the sculpture is fabricated of stainless steel and elevates the sculpture to a total height of approximately 1.50 meters, thus giving the whole sculpture a monumental proportion. AAA hereby invites you to

drop by and visit the sculpture garden, where you can view all the 7 sculptures made by local artists. The Sculpture Garden is situated at the airport between the US check-in area and the local immigrations on the US side, right behind 14Bis Restaurant. □

# SUPER



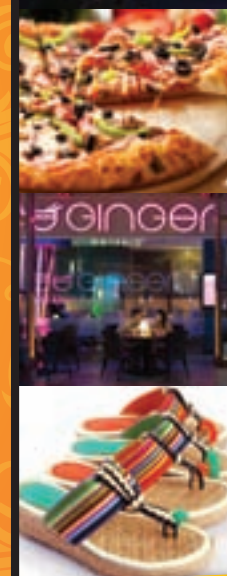
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# Aruba Tourism Authority honors super-loyal guests!



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Blue Village Hotel and at La Cabana, as Distinguished Visitors to Aruba! The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreci-

ation to guests who happily visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Tony and Berthie Damen from Gelderland, Holland, and Charles and Barbara Morris from Hanover, Massachusetts. These two families love Aruba very much because of the friendly Aruban people, the weather, the beautiful beaches, and

the restaurants and they love to meet every year with their Aruban friends. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel, representing ATA, together with Melva Ridderstap of Blue Village, who is a very good friend of the Damen couple, as well as Sharine Charles, representing the La Cabana. □

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# Ligety wins GS for 3rd gold medal at worlds

In this photo provided by Schlading 2013 Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, Ted Ligety, of the United States, poses with his 3 gold medals after winning the men's Giant Slalom, Super Combined and Super-G at the Alpine Skiing World Championships, in Schlading, Austria.

Associated Press  
Page 21



Serena Williams of the U.S. reacts after winning against Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova in their WTA Qatar Ladies Open tennis quarterfinal match in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.  
Associated Press

## Williams returns to No. 1 with Qatar win

MICHAEL CASEY  
AP Sports Writer

**DOHA, Qatar (AP)** — An emotional Serena Williams has sealed her return to the top of women's tennis, overcoming a series of potentially career-ending injuries since 2010 to become the oldest woman to hold the No. 1 ranking. Needing to reach the Qatar Open semifinals to replace Victoria Azarenka of Belarus when the rankings are issued next week, the 31-year-old Williams came from a set down to beat former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Continued on page 20

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND BAE



## Bae leads as Donald lurks at Riviera

Sang-Moon Bae, of South Korea, fist pumps after making birdie on the third green in the second round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.  
Associated Press  
Page 19



## NBA Capsules

# Heat too much for Thunder again, win 110-100

**The Associated Press**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — LeBron James had 39 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and the Miami Heat trampled the Oklahoma City Thunder 110-100 in a Thursday night showcase before the All-Star break. Chris Bosh chipped in 20 points and 12 rebounds as the Heat won their sixth straight against the Thunder dating to last year's NBA Finals.

Miami swept the season series after winning on its home court on Christmas Day, following up after taking the last four games of the Finals.

James was in position to continue his NBA record run of games with at least 30 points and 60 percent shooting to seven, but missed from a couple steps beyond the 3-point line as the shot clock ran down



**Miami Heat forward LeBron James, left, keeps the ball from Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013. Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) watches at rear.**

with just over a minute left. That dropped him to 14 for 24 in the game (58 percent). James had said before the game that he didn't care if the streak continued, as long as Miami kept winning. Kevin Durant had 40 points and eight rebounds, but

missed his first seven shots as Oklahoma City fell hopelessly behind. Russell Westbrook had 26 points and 10 assists, with six turnovers.

CLIPPERS 125, LAKERS 101  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Paul had 24

points and 13 assists, Blake Griffin scored 18 of his 22 points in a spectacular first quarter and the Clippers cemented their supremacy in Los Angeles with an easy victory over the Lakers. Chauncey Billups hit five 3-pointers while scoring

21 points for the Clippers, who roared into the All-Star break by clinching the season series in their city rivalry for the first time in 20 years. The Clippers have won the Staples Center co-tenants' first three games of the season, with Los Angeles' longtime underdogs burying the 16-time champions in this latest meeting under a wave of 16 3-pointers. Kobe Bryant had 20 points and 11 assists for the Lakers, who head to the break in 10th place in the Western Conference.

Caron Butler had 13 points and eight rebounds for the Clippers, who lead Golden State by seven games atop the Pacific Division standings after their fourth straight victory.

The Lakers had won eight of 11 overall heading into this meeting, but the Clippers scored the first 15 points and never trailed. □

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perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort

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# Bae leads as Donald lurks at Riviera

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Luke Donald is playing as if he never took that long winter break, chipping in twice for birdies on his way to a 5-under 66 that left him two shots behind Sang-Moon Bae among those who played early at the Northern Trust Open on Friday.

Donald, who last competed Thanksgiving week in Dubai, Donald relied heavily on his exquisite short game at Riviera, beginning his round with a delicate bunker shot short of the 10th green for birdie. He has required only five shots to play the 10th hole in two rounds, which is fewer than some players took in one round.

Bae opened with four straight birdies, most of them from tap-in range until a 25-foot putt on the 13th hole.

He kept right on going until the 26-year-old from South Korea had the lead to himself with a 6-under 65. Bae played with John Merrick, who had a 66 and was one shot behind.

The forecast was for wind to increase in the afternoon, making it likely that Bae's 36-hole total of 9-under 133 might hold up. Among those playing in the afternoon were Matt Kuchar, who had the first-round lead at 7-under 64, and Phil Mickelson.

Donald, the No. 3 player in the world, was one of three players from the top 20 who had yet to play a tournament this year, and they all played in the same group. Adam Scott had a 67 and was at 4-under 138, while Graeme McDowell had a 72 and was likely to miss the cut.

Donald doesn't have the well-rounded game that took him to No. 1 in the world as recently as six months ago. His short game has carried him, a product of how much work

he spent during his break from tournament golf over the last two months.

He holed a tough chip for eagle on the 10th hole Thursday, knocked in a chip just short of the 15th green Friday, and chipped in from about 70 feet short of the green on the par-3 fourth hole for his last birdie of the day.

"Tee to green, I'm getting closer," he said. "I'm very excited being sharp with my short game. It's nice to be in the mix this early. It's never easy to come off a long break and get straight back into the thick of things. A lot of my score comes from a good short game."

Former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel looked sharp in his long game and had a 67, leaving him three shots behind at 6-under 136 along with U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson, who had a 66.

John Mallinger, who like Merrick plays out of Long Beach, birdied his last four holes for a 66 and was another shot behind.

Missing from that group was Sergio Garcia, who started the second round with an eagle to take the outright lead, though that was as good as it got. Garcia stumbled to the finish, making three bogeys over his last five holes for a 73 and dropped him five shots behind.

Donald began his rise to No. 1 in the world two years ago by working with Dave Alred, a performance guru from Britain who is famous for working with rugby players such as Johnny Wilkinson. The latest influence is none other than Michael Jordan, though Donald says it's nothing more than spending time with the NBA great.

Donald spends half the year in south Florida, where Jordan is building a home.

Jordan loves to play golf.

Donald loves to take his money.

"I usually give him six (shots) a side," Donald said. "And that's usually not enough for him."

Donald won an NCAA title at Northwestern and he first met Jordan in Chicago. He says they are simply friends — "In no way am I working with Michael at all" — although it doesn't hurt to be around someone with such a winning pedigree. □



Sang-Moon Bae, of South Korea, looks at his club on the sixth hole in the second round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

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# Benneteau shocks Federer in ABN AMRO quarters

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Julien Benneteau upset an out of sorts Roger Federer 6-3, 7-5 Friday to reach the semifinals of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament.

Defending champion Federer struggled with his serve and the timing of his ground shots throughout the match and Benneteau capitalized, punishing Federer on his second serves, to record his second victory over the Swiss master. "It is one of the biggest wins, for sure," the 39-ranked Frenchman said. "To play against Roger, Friday night, full house, it's a dream and I played like in a dream." The defeat ended top-seeded Federer's quest to become the first man to win the Rotterdam tournament three times. It also gave Benneteau a



**Julien Benneteau of France clenches his fist after winning a game against Roger Federer of Switzerland at the ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands, Friday Feb. 15, 2013.**

Associated Press

measure of revenge for last year's Wimbledon, when he blew a two-set lead to

lose to Federer, and the London Olympics, where Federer beat him 6-2, 6-2. The Frenchman set the tone by breaking Federer in the match's first game, pouncing on a Federer backhand that hit the net to power a backhand pass down the line for the game. He looked to have stumbled in the 4th game when he served two double faults to allow Federer to break back, but Benneteau broke again in the 7th and 9th games to take the set. He raced to a 4-1 lead in the second set before Federer again reeled off three straight games. The Swiss 17-time Grand Slam champion looked like he was on his way back when he forced three break points at 5-5, but Benneteau grittily held service.

Summing up his sloppy play on the night, Federer served his fourth double fault to give Benneteau match point and the Frenchman immediately took it to win. Earlier, Grigor Dimitrov rallied to overcome Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus 6-7 (4), 7-6 (0), 6-3 to advance to the semifinals, where he will meet 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, who beat Jarkko Nieminen 6-3, 6-4. Dimitrov broke Baghdatis' first service game of the final set to set up a win he celebrated by leaping over the net to hug his opponent. "That was my last one percent of power," Dimitrov said. "Thank God I didn't injure myself." The 21-year-old Dimitrov has been compared to a young Federer with a simi-

lar one-handed backhand, but he still doesn't possess the Swiss master's temperament. That was demonstrated by his smashing a racket into the court after Baghdatis broke his serve in the second set. Del Potro also was frustrated against Nieminen, but the 1.98-meter (6-foot-6) Argentine's serve saved him whenever he looked in trouble. The second-seeded Del Potro served 10 aces, seven in the second set. "It was a really difficult match," Del Potro said. "I played well, but I need to improve my game for the next round." Dimitrov reached his first ATP final in January, losing to Andy Murray at the Brisbane International. Martin Klizan was playing Gilles Simon in the last quarterfinal. □

## Qatar wins

Continued from page 17

Williams held up one finger after clinching the match with an ace and wiped away the tears as she addressed the cheering crowd.

"I never thought I would be here again," Williams said. "Oh my gosh, I've been through so much. I never thought I would be here. Thank you Jehovah (she is a Jehovah Witness) for giving me another chance." Chris Evert held the top ranking in 1985 just shy of her 31st birthday.

It has been a long journey back to the top for Williams.

Shortly after winning Wimbledon in 2010, she cut her feet on broken glass while on her way out of a restaurant in Germany. That led to two operations on her right foot. Later, she got clots in her lungs and needed to inject herself with a blood thinner. Those shots led to a pool of blood gathering under her stomach's skin, requiring another hospital procedure.

Williams lost the top spot to Caroline Wozniacki in



**Serena Williams of the United States poses with a trophy given to her by the WTA Tour after the 31-year-old American reclaimed the world number one ranking following her WTA Qatar Open tennis quarter-final match against Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova in the Qatari capital, Doha on Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.**

Associated Press

2010 and tumbled down the rankings. But she made a comeback worthy of a No. 1 in 2012, winning Wimbledon, the Olympic gold medal, the U.S. Open and the season-ending WTA championships. She lost

only one match in 2012 after her first-round exit at the French Open.

"There were often times that I never thought I'd play again. Then I thought I'd never be able to win tournaments or Grand

Slams," Williams said. "No. 1 was so far off. I mean, it was always a dream, but, you know, I was No. 1 when tragedy struck, and it was just an awful thing to happen. So I'm happy that I'm back." Among those to pay tribute to Williams becoming No. 1 was Maria Sharapova, the American's next opponent, who said it proved the staying power of the game's older players. "It just shows you how the generations have shifted a bit," Sharapova said. "You know, maybe five, 10 years ago you saw a lot of the younger players achieving much more success and winning Grand Slams. And now, you know, you see Li Na and Serena doing so well ... It just shows you how if you stay healthy and you're able to keep working hard, the things that you're able to achieve in tennis at that age."

WTA chairman Stacey Allaster called it an "amazing accomplishment" for a "superstar champion who has played an integral role, over the past 15 years, in solidifying tennis as the global leader in women's sports." It wasn't a dominating performance on Friday from the 15-time Grand Slam winner. Erratic at times and

appearing to favor her right ankle that she injured at the Australian Open, Williams committed 31 unforced errors throughout the match and hit eight double faults.

She also struggled early on with the Czech's serve and forehand in the first set. But her own serve saved her, especially in the second set when she went on to win 13 of the final 14 points — pumping her fist several times and screaming, the first signs of emotion to be seen so far in the tournament.

Down 4-1 in the decider, Williams broke Kvitova when she double faulted to make it 4-3. Though it seemed the match would go to a tiebreaker, Williams broke with a wicked cross-court backhand to make 6-5 and won it with one of her 14 aces.

"I stuck in there, and I just never gave up. I always felt like I can just keep fighting and I can just try to do it," Williams said. "I definitely did not play great. With that being said, I think Petra played unbelievable, and I think she was just hitting shots I had no chance to get. I don't think anyone on this tour could have gotten." □





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## With 3rd gold at worlds, Ligety joins ski legends

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

SCHLADMING, Austria (AP)

— Ted Ligety has joined some of skiing's legends. And in doing so, the American catapulted himself into the sport's biggest spotlight heading into next year's Sochi Olympics.

By winning Friday's giant slalom by a massive margin, Ligety became the first man in 45 years to win three gold medals at a skiing world championships — since French great Jean-Claude Killy took home four golds in 1968.

"I still don't think I recognize what I've done this week," Ligety said. "It's just been so phenomenal to win three gold medals, especially in two events that I hadn't won in before."

Ligety opened the championships last week by winning the super-G, then followed that up with gold in the super-combined Monday — both events he had never won on the World Cup circuit.

"That kind of added some pressure and expectations for today, because the giant slalom is really what I came here for and really wanted," said Ligety, who won four of the five World Cup GS races this season. "It's just been super, super surreal."

Killy's feat came on home snow in Grenoble in a year when the Winter Olympics doubled as the world championships. He swept gold in all three Olympic events — giant slalom, slalom and downhill — and was awarded another worlds gold for combined. The only other three men to accomplish the feat were Emile Allais, the first great French skier, who won three events at the 1937 worlds in Cham-



United States's Ted Ligety passes a gate during the first run of the men's giant slalom at the Alpine skiing world championships in Schladming, Austria, Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

nix, France; Norwegian pioneer Stein Eriksen, who took home three golds from the 1954 worlds in Are, Sweden; and Toni Sailer, one of the first great Austrian skiers who won four golds at the 1956 Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, which also doubled as worlds, and three at the 1958 worlds in Bad Gastein, Austria.

"To be among those names, to have three gold medals at world championships, is a really cool feeling," Ligety said. "It's not something I set out to accomplish."

Ligety also probably didn't intend to put himself in position as "the next big thing" heading into Sochi. But with Lindsey Vonn having had a season-ending crash in her opening event here and Bode Miller taking this season off to recover from left knee surgery, Ligety will almost surely be thrust into

the role that Miller had for the 2006 Turin Games and that Vonn dealt with for the 2010 Vancouver Games.

"I guess we'll see," Ligety said.

"I don't know what it's going to be like. I know they both had a lot of external pressures and a lot of different things they (had) to go through for being the favorite and we'll see how that goes."

"This definitely sets the bar high," Ligety added. "I don't know if this is repeatable. Hopefully I can just maintain the same level of skiing and give myself good chances there."

This was a pretty decent dress rehearsal.

Before 35,000 fans, Ligety established a 1.31-second lead in the opening run and overcame a slight bobble in the second leg to finish 0.81 ahead of Austrian rival Marcel Hirscher — the only man to beat

Ligety in a GS this season — and 1.75 in front of Manfred Moelgg, who finally gave Italy's talented GS squad its first medal since Alberto Tomba in 1996.

While the numbers were impressive, what his fellow skiers marveled at was Ligety's form — how he leaned down at near-impossible angles for each turn, dragging his hips and hands across the snow as the edges of his skis carved stayed on perfect line.

Italian GS veteran Davide Simoncelli, who finished sixth, simply couldn't match Ligety's flexibility.

"He leans down much further than we do and therefore the ski goes much faster, because it goes tighter around the turn," Simoncelli said. "I'm trying everything I can but I'm not able to imitate him."

"It's like asking the guy who finishes second in the 100-meter dash, 'How do

you catch (Usain) Bolt?'" Simoncelli added.

While most of the 35,000 fans who flooded into this small Alpine village were hoping to see Hirscher win, Ligety also had supporters. One fan banner at the race read, "Ted Ligety: You are the one and only." Another said, "Ted Ligety: I love you," with a heart in the place of love. And little girls had "Ted" painted onto their cheeks.

"He's flying, not skiing. He goes from one victory to another," Austrian Alpine director Hans Pum said. "He got his first super-G win in the first race and then he just carried on. He's doing what he wants to."

Ligety's victories, plus a super-G bronze from Julia Mancuso, put the U.S. Ski Team atop the medals table after nine of 11 events. Only the two slaloms remain, and American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin is among the favorites for the women's race Saturday. Host Austria has the most medals overall, five, but is still seeking its first individual victory, having won only the team event.

"There's nothing to say. It's life, it's sport. It's like Barcelona," Pum said, referring to the Spanish football team. "The best team doesn't always win. This is sport. It's important for sport."

Hirscher, whose every move at these championships has been documented in this ski-crazy nation, also paid tribute to Ligety. "He's definitely the world champion, the triple champion," Hirscher said. "I take my hat off to you." But Ligety wasn't celebrating yet. He closes the championships with Sunday's slalom, an event he hasn't reached the podium in for five years. □



## Study: Alcohol linked to cancer deaths

VICTORIA COLLIVER

© 2013 San Francisco Chronicle

Even moderate alcohol use may substantially raise the risk of dying from cancer, according to a study released Thursday offering the first comprehensive update of alcohol-related cancers deaths in decades.

"People don't talk about the issue of alcohol and cancer risk," said Dr. David Nelson, director of the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program at the National Cancer Institute and lead author of the study.

"Alcohol has been known to be related to causing cancer for a long period of time. We talk about cancer prevention, screenings and tests. This is one of those things that seems to be missing in plain sight."

Alcohol use accounts for about 3.5 percent of all U.S. cancer deaths annually, according to the study. The majority of deaths seemed to occur among people who consumed more than three alcoholic drinks a day, but those who consumed 1.5 beverages daily may account for up to a third of those deaths, the researchers found. In 2009, 18,000 to 21,000 people in the United States died of alcohol-related cancers, from cancer of the liver to breast cancer and other types, the researchers said.

That's more than the number of people who die every year of melanoma or ovarian cancer, which caused over 9,000 and 14,000 U.S. deaths respectively in 2009.

How alcohol causes cancer is not fully understood, the study notes. Previous research has shown alcohol appears to work in different ways to increase cancer risk, such as affecting estrogen levels in women and acting as a solvent to help tobacco chemicals get into the digestive tract. The study, published in the American Journal of Public Health, is the first major analysis of alcohol-attrib-

utable cancer deaths in more than 30 years. Researchers said the lack of recent research on the subject may contribute to a lack of public awareness of the cancer risks.

"People are well aware of other risks, like the impact of tobacco on cancer, and are not as aware alcohol plays quite a bit of a role," said Thomas Greenfield, one of the study's authors and scientific director of Public Health Institute's Alcohol Research Group, in Emeryville.

Researchers examined seven types of cancers known to be linked to alcohol use:

cism.

Dr. Curtis Ellison, professor of medicine and public health at Boston University School of Medicine, said the study failed to take into account several important factors, such as the pattern of drinking rather than just the amount of alcohol consumed. He said consuming small, consistent amounts of alcohol is much healthier than occasional binge drinking.

"They're mixing alcohol abuse, which leads to all of these cancers as they've clearly shown, with the casual drinker, where the risk is very small," said Ellison, also co-director of the International Scientific Forum on Alcohol Research.

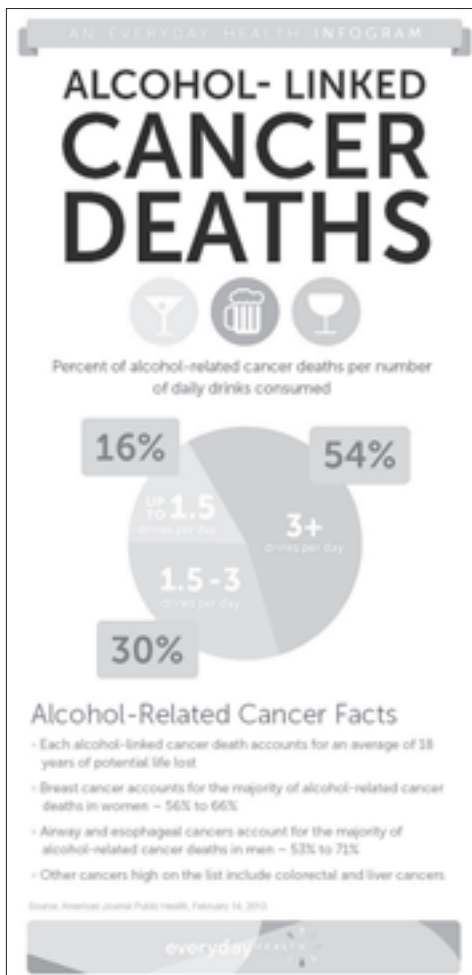
Dr. Arthur Klatsky, adjunct investigator at the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research, said many studies have shown moderate drinkers in older age groups may be healthier than those who abstain. Klatsky has long researched the effects of alcohol on health, but declined to comment directly on the study because he had not yet read it.

"Advice needs to be individualized," Klatsky said. "The advice one would give to 60-year-old man who has no problem with alcohol but is at high risk of heart disease due to family history is quite

different than the advice we give to a 25-year-old woman whose mother died of breast cancer."

The study's authors acknowledged alcohol can have health benefits, but claimed alcohol causes 10 times as many deaths as it prevents. There's no known safe level of drinking, they said.

"The safest level for cancer prevention is that people don't expose themselves to any potential risk," said Nelson of the National Cancer Institute. "The bottom line means for people who choose to drink, their cancer risk will be lower if they drink lower amounts." □



cancers of the mouth and pharynx, larynx, esophagus, liver, colon, rectum and female breast. To link the cancer to alcohol use, they relied on surveys of more than 220,000 adults, 2009 U.S. mortality data, and sales data on alcohol consumption.

Breast cancer accounted for the most common alcohol-related cancer deaths among women -- alcohol contributed to 15 percent of all breast cancer deaths. Among men, cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx and esophagus accounted for the most alcohol-linked cancer deaths.

The study drew some criti-



### Staying Fit:

## Healthy Back Side Bends!

Marjie Gilliam

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio -- A healthy

back allows for movement in different directions, including side-to-side motion (lateral flexion). Side bends -- this column's exercise of the month -- help to increase both strength and flexibility of the low back and the abdominals, supporting the spine and helping to improve posture.

Muscles worked include those along the low back (quadratus lumborum), the erector spinae, which lie on both sides of the spinal column, and the internal and external obliques, which act to flex and rotate the spine.

#### Execution

Stand with feet approximately shoulder width apart, holding onto one dumbbell in your right hand. In a slow and controlled manner, slowly lean to the right just to the point where a gentle stretch is felt along the left side of the waistline/low back.

Pause for a second, and then in one slow movement and keeping yourself from twisting, return to an upright position and to the left side, contracting the left side muscles of the waist and using the resistance of the dumbbell for strengthening.

After completing the set, repeat, holding the dumbbell in the left hand.

#### Tips:

Side bends can be

used primarily as a core strengthener (moderate resistance), or strictly as a flexibility exercise (lighter resistance).

It is not necessary to use a heavy weight in order to obtain benefits from this exercise.

In fact, using weights that are too heavy places needless stress on the spinal column and can lead to low back pain.

The exercise can be performed standing or seated, although while standing, more of the stabilizing postural muscles are involved. The arms should remain straight during each repetition, although avoid locking out the elbow joint.

As you are leaning from side to side, do not use the arm muscles to lift the dumbbell.

Lifting should come from the midsection.

Perform side bends only in a slow and controlled manner.

When leaning side to side, do not twist the torso, and avoid overstretching.

Keep the shoulders lined up, and bend to the side no more than 30 degrees, the normal range of motion for lateral flexion.

Start with one to two sets of eight to 12 repetitions on each side. Add reps and/or sets as you become stronger.

To maintain strength balance, perform other abdominal exercises along with side bends. □



# Facebook gets unwelcome look at hackers' dark side

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Facebook is getting an unwelcome look at the shady side of the hacking culture that CEO Mark Zuckerberg celebrates.

Intruders recently infiltrated the systems running the world's largest online social network but did not steal any sensitive information about Facebook's more than 1 billion users, according to a blog posting Friday by the company's security team.

The unsettling revelation is the latest breach to expose the digital cracks in a society and an economy that is storing an ever-growing volume of personal and business data online.

The news didn't seem to faze investors. Facebook Inc.'s stock dipped 10 cents to \$28.22 in Friday's extended trading.

The main building at Facebook's Menlo Park, California, headquarters lists its address as 1 Hacker Way. From there, Facebook serves as the gatekeeper for billions of potentially embarrassing photos and messages that get posted each month.

This time, at least, that material didn't get swept



This Feb. 8, 2012 photo shows a mural at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

up in the digital break-in that Facebook said it discovered last month. The company didn't say why it waited until the afternoon before a holiday weekend to inform its users about the hack.

It was a sophisticated attack that also hit other companies, according to Facebook, which didn't identify the targets.

"As part of our ongoing investigation, we are working

continuously and closely with our own internal engineering teams, with security teams at other companies, and with law enforcement authorities to learn everything we can about the attack, and how to prevent similar incidents in the future," Facebook wrote on the blog.

Online short-messaging service Twitter acknowledged being hacked earlier this month. In that se-

curity breakdown, Twitter warned that the attackers may have stolen user names, email addresses and encrypted passwords belonging to 250,000 of the more than 200 million accounts set up on its service. Late last month, both The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal — two of the three largest U.S. newspapers — said they were hit by China-based hackers believed to be interested in monitoring media coverage of topics that the Chinese government deemed important. Facebook didn't identify a suspected origin of its hacking incident, but provided a few details about how it apparently happened.

The security lapse was traced to a handful of employees who visited a mobile software developer's website that had been compromised, which led to malware being installed

on the workers' laptops. The PCs were infected even though they were supposed to be protected by the latest anti-virus software and were equipped with other up-to-date protection.

Facebook linked part of the problem to a security hole in the Java software that triggered a safety alert from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last month. The government agency advised computer users to disable Java on their machines because of a weakness that could be exploited by hackers.

Oracle Corp., the owner of Java, has since issued a security patch that it says has fixed the problem. In its post, Facebook said it received the Java fix two weeks ago.

Facebook never mentioned the word "hack" in describing the breach. That, no doubt, was by design because hacking is a good thing in Zuckerberg's vernacular.

To most people, hacking conjures images of malevolent behavior by intruders listening to private voice-mails and villains crippling websites or breaking into email accounts.

Zuckerberg provided his interpretation of the word in a manifesto titled "The Hacker Way" that he included in the documents that the company filed for its initial public offering of stock last year.

"The word 'hacker' has an unfairly negative connotation from being portrayed in the media as people who break into computers," Zuckerberg wrote. "In reality, hacking just means building something quickly or testing the boundaries of what can be done." □

## Former BlackBerry CEO sells all company shares

NEW YORK (AP) -- BlackBerry's shares soared Thursday as investors sensed a turnaround at the company, despite one of its former leaders selling off his stake in the company.

The stock slipped in early trading but more than made up for it later, add-

ing \$1.08, or 7.7 percent, to close at \$15.07.

Shares of the company, formerly known as Research In Motion Ltd., have more than doubled since September, when they closed at a multi-year low of \$6.31, on optimism and favorable reviews of the new BlackBerry smartphone. The software has a fresh interface designed for touchscreens that is expected to give it a fighting chance against competitors like the iPhone and Android smartphones. The vote of investor confidence followed the disclosure that Jim Balsillie, former co-CEO and co-chairman, sold all of his

shares in the company. A regulatory document filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Thursday showed that Balsillie held no shares in the company as of the end of December. He previously held a 5.2 percent stake according to a filing in February of 2011. Company founder Mike Lazaridis still holds a 5.7 percent stake in the company, according to another regulatory filing on Thursday. Lazaridis and Balsillie announced in January of 2011 that they would step down as co-CEOs after an extended decline in earnings and stock price. □



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# Burger King income nearly doubles in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter

CANDICE CHOI  
M. CHAPMAN  
AP Business Writers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A revamped menu helped boost Burger King's profit in the fourth quarter but now the world's second biggest hamburger chain says it needs to play up value more aggressively to compete with rivals.

The Miami-based chain said Friday that sales in the new year are trending "modestly negative" as the broader fast-food industry fights to attract cash-strapped diners with cheap eats.

To address the intensifying focus on value from competitors, Steve Wiborg, president of Burger King's North America operations, noted the company launched a limited-time of-

fer for a Junior Whopper for \$1.29 this week. Although of competitive pressures." With the broader restau-



**Burger King's net income nearly doubled in Q4 as the world's second largest hamburger chain boosted sales in North America and shifted to a franchisee-owned model that significantly slashed costs.**  
(AP Photo/Claude Paris)

Burger King will continue to pursue a "barbell" strategy of also offering premium items, Wiborg said that for now it will be "a little more focused on value because

rant industry expected to be flat to modestly up this year, companies are going to greater lengths to convince people to eat out more. McDonald's,

for example, has been underscoring its Dollar Menu to boost sales and recently added a Grilled Onion Cheddar Burger to the lineup. In some markets, the Oak Brook, Illinois-based chain is also offering six-piece Chicken McNuggets for a buck. Wendy's also revamped its 99-cent menu to offer customers more variety, as well as giving it more wiggle room to charge slightly higher prices. The chain's new "Right Price, Right Size" menu has tiered pricing that goes up to around \$2. Meanwhile, Burger King CEO Bernardo Hees said that sales in Europe haven't been affected by the horsemeat scandal that has gripped the region. In fact, Hees said sales in the United Kingdom have been up

in January and February. Testing has shown that ground beef at various locations in the region actually contained horsemeat. The remarks from Hees and Wiborg came after Burger King delivered a strong fourth-quarter results; its net income nearly doubled as a key sales figure rose in North America and the company shifted to a franchisee-owned store model that significantly slashed costs. Adjusted earnings and revenue topped Wall Street's expectations. It also raised its dividend by 25 percent to 5 cents per share. 3G Capital, the private investment firm that owns a majority stake in the company, has been working to turn around Burger King's business since purchasing it in 2010. □

## Herbalife stock surges after investor grabs stake

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A feud between Wall Street titans is flaring up again over Herbalife.

Carl Icahn has taken a 13 percent stake in the supplement company that Pershing Square Capital Management's William Ackman calls a pyramid scheme. Ackman has bet that the company's stock price will fall.

Icahn's investment, revealed in a filing with the

Securities and Exchange Commission late Thursday, comes three weeks after a spat between the two men boiled over on live television, with each phoning in to CNBC and insulting each other.

The stock price of Herbalife rose \$4.22, or 11 percent, to \$42.50 Friday afternoon. It jumped more than 20 percent before the opening bell.

Icahn said in the regulatory filing that he plans to have

discussions with Herbalife management about business and strategic alternatives to enhance shareholder value, including the possibility of going private. That would be disastrous for investors who have shorted Herbalife, a tactic in which an investor "borrows" a share from a broker and sells it on the open market, anticipating the stock price will fall. Later, that share can be bought again at a lower price,

locking in the difference for a profit.

In the stock keeps rising, short sellers could be forced to liquidate their positions to limit their losses. With the shares rising on Friday, many could do just that.

Ackman on Friday remained firm in his beliefs about Herbalife.

"After 18 months of due diligence, we have concluded that it is a certainty that Herbalife is a pyramid

scheme," he said. "Our goal was to shine a spotlight on Herbalife. To the extent that Mr. Icahn is helping achieve this objective, we welcome his involvement."

The feud between Icahn and Ackman began a decade ago over a real estate company deal that ended up in court. Icahn was forced to pay \$4.5 billion to Ackman's Gotham Partners, and he has never forgotten about it. □

## Report: US investigating trading in Heinz deal

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. regulators have opened an insider trading inquiry on the \$23 billion acquisition of H.J. Heinz, according to a publish report.

Citing an unnamed source who was briefed on the matter, The New York Times reported Friday that the Securities and Exchange Commission is looking at "unusual trading" surrounding the deal for Heinz to be purchased by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and 3G Capital, an investment firm that also recently bought Burger King.

The report said regulators first noticed a suspicious spike in trading on

Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for the SEC, Christina D'Amico, said the agency does not confirm or deny the existence of investigations. Representatives for Heinz, Berkshire Hathaway and the public relations agency representing 3G and Berkshire in the deal did not immediately return messages for comment.

In announcing the deal, Heinz said the company planned to remain in Pittsburgh and that the move would help it continue its transformation into a global business more quickly. In addition to ketchup, the company makes Classico

pasta sauces and Ore-Ida potatoes, as well as a

growing stable of sauces suited to regional tastes



**Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., at the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho. The New York Times reported that the SEC is looking at "unusual trading" surrounding the deal for Heinz to be purchased by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and 3G Capital.**

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

around the world.

The New York Times report noted that options trading in Heinz soared this week before the deal was announced Thursday morning.

Call options let investors can place a bet on a stock without committing to buy the shares. Investors instead have the option to buy the shares later for a set price.

The report noted that the SEC often opens inquiries into trading activity after major deals without bringing charges later on. Heinz and the buyers haven't been accused of any wrongdoing. □



## U.S. factory output falls

**M. CRUTSINGER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. factories slowed production in January after two solid months of cranking out goods. The weakness mainly reflected a big drop in output at auto factories that is likely temporary. Manufacturing output fell 0.4 percent in January from December, the Federal Reserve said Friday. The decline followed increases of 1.1 percent in December and 1.7 percent in November. Overall industrial production edged down 0.1 percent in January compared with December. Output in mining, the category that covers oil and gas drilling, fell 1 percent. Utility output jumped 3.5 percent, as a cold snap led more households to turn up their heat. Factory output, the most important component of industrial production, was dragged lower by a steep 3.2 percent decline in auto and auto parts production. The auto industry is coming off its best year for sales in five years, one of the few bright spots in an otherwise bleak manufacturing sector. Sales continue to rise, so production will likely rebound in February. Still, many factories outside the auto industry have been hurt by a slowdown in consumer spending and weaker global growth that has dampened demand for U.S. exports. □

# S&P 500 ends higher, extending streak

**STEVE ROTHWELL**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The S&P 500 kept its winning streak alive, just.

The Standard & Poor's 500 ended the week nearly two points higher, enough to give it a seventh straight week of gains. That's the longest stretch of advances in more than two years. The index lost 1.59 points to end at 1,519.79 Friday. For the week it held on to a gain of 1.86 points.

Investors piled into stocks at the beginning of the year after lawmakers reached a last-minute deal to avoid the "fiscal cliff" of sweeping tax hikes and spending cuts. The gains continued as investors were encouraged by signs that the housing and jobs markets are recovering. Company earnings have also held up well.

There are signs, however, that the rally is running out of steam.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 8.37 points to close at 13,981.76 Friday, but ended the week down 11 points. The index has now edged lower for two straight weeks.

"We've just had such a fast start to the year," said John Fox, manager of the FAM value fund. "It just makes sense that you are going to have a leveling or a slowdown."

Walmart was the biggest decliner in the Dow Friday. The stock fell \$1.52,

or 2.2 percent, to \$69.30 after Bloomberg News published excerpts from an internal e-mail that said sales in February were a "total disaster." The retailer, which reports earnings

Herbalife gained 47 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$38.74, and climbed as high as \$44.93 after the billionaire investor Carl Icahn disclosed that he had accumulated a 13 percent

straight week of increases. In January \$37.4 billion went into stock funds, the most in that month since 2000.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves inversely to its price, has risen as investors have put more cash into stocks. The yield rose 1 basis point to 2.01 percent, having started the year at 1.70 percent.

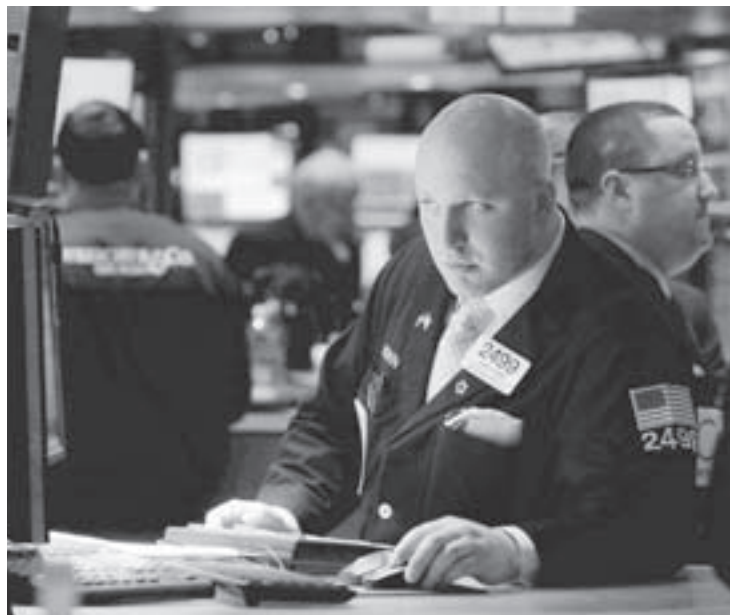
Among other stocks making big moves:

— MeadWestvaco, a packaging company, surged \$3.97, or 12.5 percent, to \$35.65 after Nelson Peltz's Trian Fund Management disclosed that it had taken a \$51 million stake in the company.

— Xoom, an online money transfer company, surged \$9.49, or 59 percent, to \$25.49 on its first day as a publicly traded company. Xoom raised \$101.2 million from selling 6.3 million shares at \$16 each.

— Burger King gained 78 cents, or 4.7 percent, to \$17.36. The company's fourth-quarter earnings nearly doubled after it revamped its menu.

— St. Jude Medical fell \$1.48, or 3.4 percent, to \$41.53 after a Cowen & Co. analyst downgraded the medical device maker's stock, saying he believes the company's Durata heart wire is not very different from older wires that have been taken off the market. □



**Specialist Joe Parisi works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 8.37 points to close at 13,981.76 Friday, but ended the week down 11 points. The index has now edged lower for two straight weeks.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

next week, said that sometimes internal communications lacked "proper context" and "are not entirely accurate."

Energy companies also contributed to the slump, following the price of crude oil lower. Chevron dropped 75 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$114.96.

The Nasdaq composite fell 6.63 points to 3,192.03 and was also down for the week, dropping 1.84 points.

stake in the company. The stock of the dietary supplement maker slumped last year after Pershing Square Capital Management's William Ackman described it as a massive pyramid scheme and placed bets that it would fall.

Investors are continuing to put money into stocks. Lipper, a unit of financial data provider Thomson Reuters, reported that \$2.4 billion flowed into stock funds this week, marking the sixth

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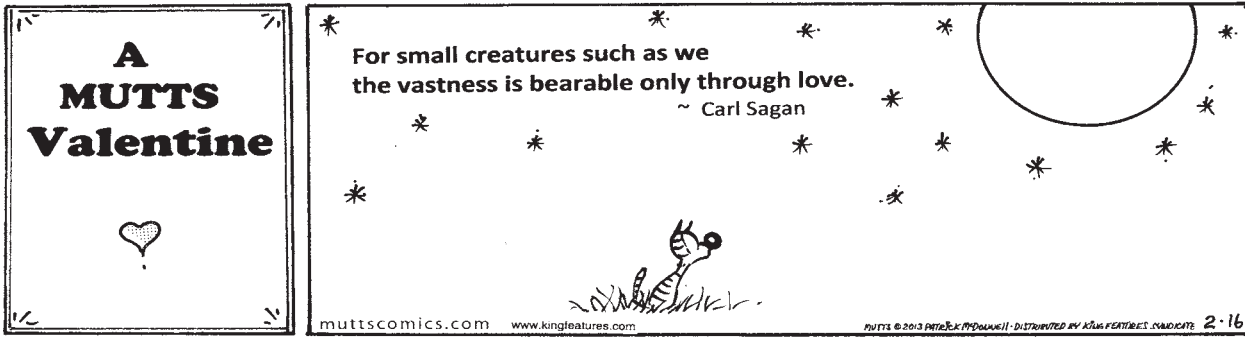
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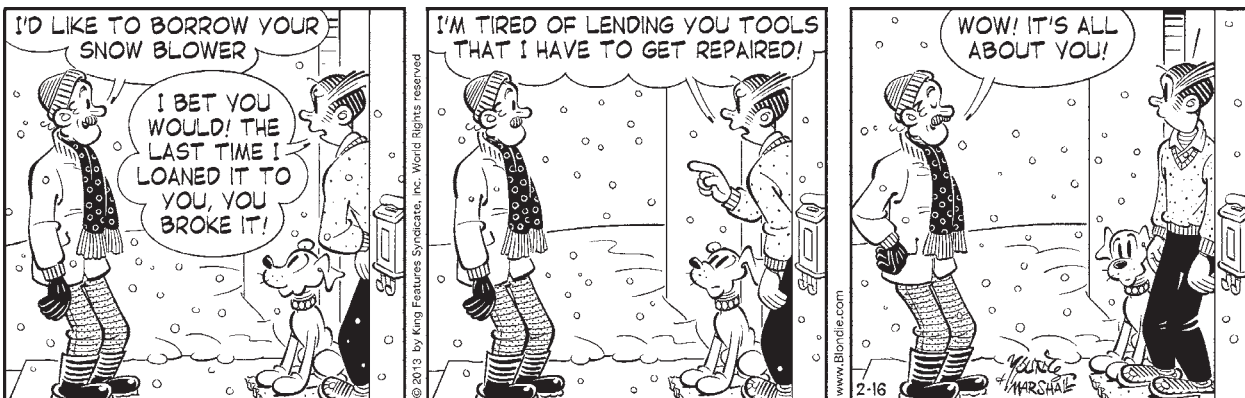
## Mutts



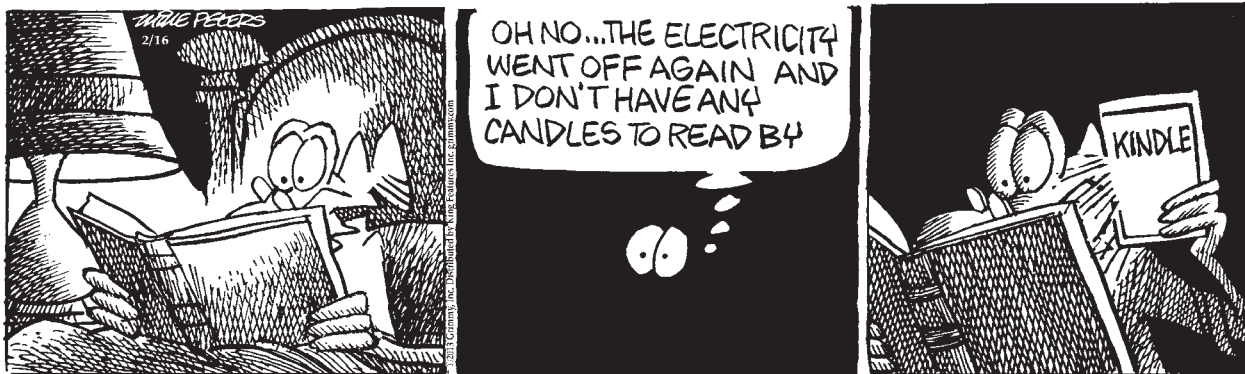
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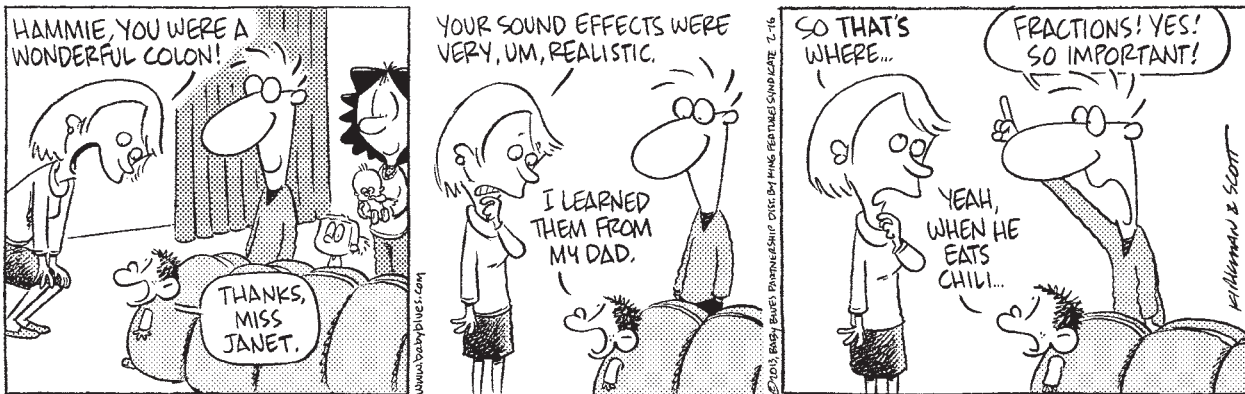
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	6	9						3
3			4					
2					1			
	9		3		5	1		
				2				
		7	6		4		9	
			9					1
				7				5
8						3	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	9	2	7	8	5	6	1	4
4	6	1	3	2	9	5	7	8
5	7	8	4	6	1	9	2	3
6	3	4	1	9	7	2	8	5
7	8	9	5	4	2	1	3	6
2	1	5	8	3	6	7	4	9
9	4	6	2	1	3	8	5	7
1	5	3	6	7	8	4	9	2
8	2	7	9	5	4	3	6	1

## ACROSS

- Ham or beef
- Smooths wood
- Tramp
- Wheel rod
- Mountain path
- Come \_\_; find
- Look on the bright \_\_; be optimistic
- Walk leisurely
- Lunch or dinner
- Dignified
- Galore
- BPOE member
- Total; absolute
- Dopey or Doc
- Suffix for Japan or Vietnam
- Sentry
- Rodents
- "\_\_"! Humbug!"
- Not as difficult
- Commotion
- Panacea
- Appropriate
- Duels with a sword
- Curved edge
- Not as much
- Tire ridge pattern
- Aviv, Israel
- One's time; waits
- Contacted with a beeper
- London tavern
- Bayer product
- King Arthur's castle
- Acute arthritis in the big toe
- Water \_\_; steam
- \_\_ away; galloped off
- Popular baby girl's name
- \_\_ laws; pass legislation
- Also says
- Pass out cards
- Go off course
- In case

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26				27					28			
29				30					31			
32				33					34			
35				36					37			
38				39					40			
41				42					43			
44				45					46			
47				48					49			
50				51					52			
53				54					55			
56				57					58			
59				60					61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/16/13

## Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	O	F	F	G	R	A	M	S	P	U	R
L	O	V	E	R	R	A	V	E	C	I	T	E
I	R	E	N	E	A	G	E	D	H	A	T	E
P	E	R	C	E	I	V	E	I	R	O	N	E
E	D	G	Y	S	A	I	L	O	R	S		
P	A	T	R	O	L	S	A	N	T	A		
O	B	I	M	O	R	O	N	E	R	E	C	T
P	U	R	R	O	I	L	E	R	S	A	L	E
S	T	E	A	M	D	E	R	E	K	C	U	E
D	O	M	E	S	A	N	T	H	E	M		
D	E	L	I	V	E	R	F	R	E	E		
R	E	U	S	E	D	P	I	M	E	N	T	O
A	R	C	H	A	L	I	S	C	U	R	I	E
F	I	R	E	L	E	N	T	A	R	E	N	A
T	E	E	S	S	A	G	S	P	E	E	K	S

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2/16/13

## DOWN

- Tumor

- Way out
- "M\*A\*S\*H" star
- Wobbles
- Follow secretly
- Fighting force
- Capture
- Swell
- Slumbered
- Arm bone
- \_\_ up; disclose one's thoughts
- Barge or tug
- Exclusively
- One of Santa's helpers
- Lawful
- Found seats for folks at church
- Rough \_\_; first manuscript
- One who gets just his feet wet
- Make amends
- Corn cob
- Lent a hand
- Find a second purpose for
- Gown or frock
- Public transport

- Shade tree
- Wood for a hope chest
- Feel poorly
- Rome or Paris
- Broad-minded
- Rent payer
- Ne'er-do-well
- \_\_ up; quits
- Festive bash
- Elderly
- Partial amount
- Wild feline
- Imogene \_\_
- Ore deposit
- Likelihood
- Examination
- Golfing term



# Countries use currency as economic weapon

Continued from page 12

## How bad could a currency war get?

— Since World War II, one of the key objectives of international economic policymaking has been to avoid a repeat of the 1930s, when countries around the world engaged in a tit-for-tat battle with their exchange rates. That decimated global trade, accentuating the depression and providing another catalyst to war. Assuming the world doesn't descend into a similar abyss, a currency war can still harm the global economy. For example, central banks, particularly in the developing world, may resort to controlling the amount of capital that can be moved out of a country to affect exchange rates. "Increasing impediments to the free flow of capital might be thought to lower the potential growth of the world economy," said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Securities.

## Can the world's leaders and central bankers calm the situation?

— No doubt, a communique will emerge from this weekend's G-20 meeting in Moscow that pours scorn at competitive devaluations. Most of the action, though, is likely to take place behind-the-scenes with pressure expected to be put on the Japanese finance minister and central bank governor not to allow the yen to fall much further. "Expect smoke and mirrors," said Simon Evenett, a professor of economics at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland and a former World Bank official. "It's not the G-20's style to point fingers." □

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3 BEDRM \$29k  
Plat Plus Holiday 51 OV -\$42k  
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k  
GOLD Season  
OS \$10k OV \$9500  
Oceanfront \$17k  
3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

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Oceanfront PLAT \$29k  
Platinum 1B OV \$12,500  
Gold season 2B OV \$10,000  
Oceanfront 2B \$17,000  
1B Oceanfront \$9,500

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# Asteroid buzzes, misses Earth \_ unlike meteor

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — An asteroid hurtled through Earth's backyard Friday, coming within an incredible 17,150 miles and making the closest known flyby for a rock of its size. In a chilling coincidence, a meteor exploded above Russia's Ural Mountains just hours before the asteroid zoomed past the planet. Scientists the world over, along with NASA, insisted the meteor had nothing to do with the asteroid since they appeared to be traveling in opposite directions. The asteroid is a much more immense object and delighted astronomers in Australia and elsewhere who watched it zip harmlessly through a clear night sky.

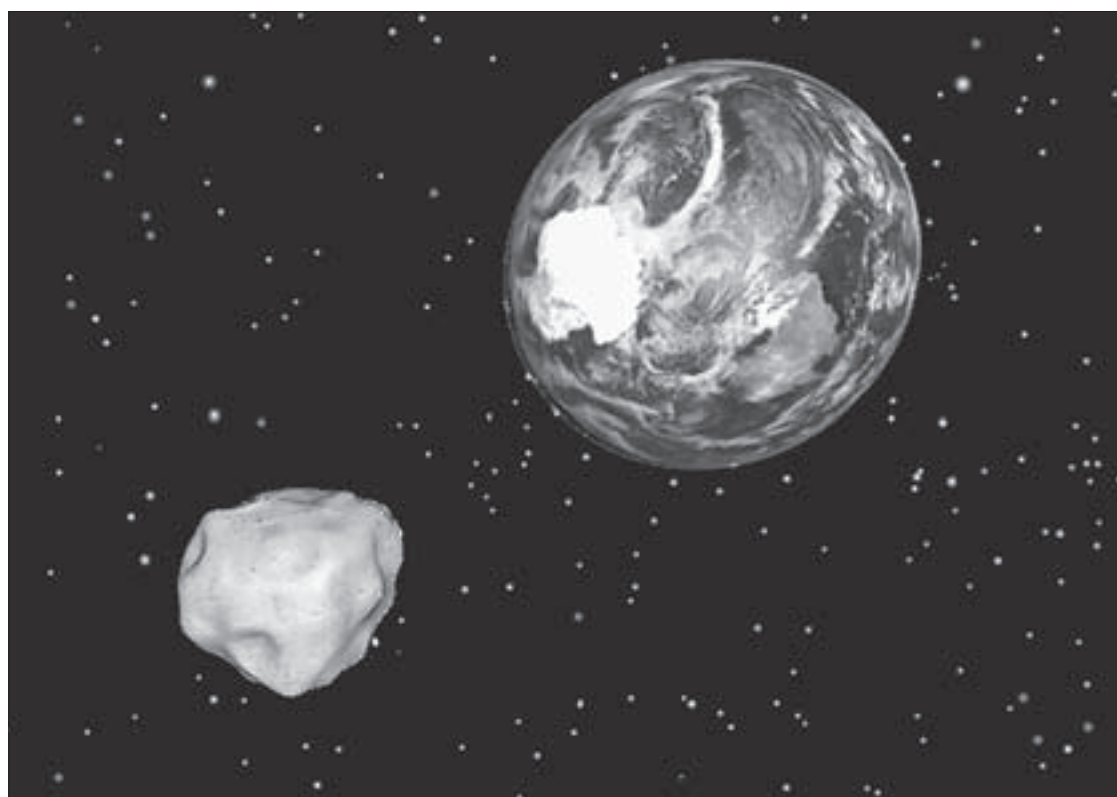
"It's on its way out," reported Paul Chodas of NASA's Near-Earth Object program at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

Asteroid 2012 DA14, as it's called, came closer to Earth than many communication and weather satellites orbiting 22,300 miles up. Scientists insisted these, too, would be spared, and they were right.

The asteroid was too small to see with the naked eye even at its closest approach around 2:25 p.m. EST, over the Indian Ocean near Sumatra.

The best viewing locations, with binoculars and telescopes, were in Asia, Australia and eastern Europe. Even there, all anyone could see was a pinpoint of light as the asteroid buzzed by at 17,400 mph.

As asteroids go, this one is a shrimp. The one that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago was 6 miles across. But this rock could



This image provided by NASA/JPL-Caltech shows a simulation of asteroid 2012 DA14 approaching from the south as it passes through the Earth-moon system on Friday, Feb. 15, 2013.

Associated Press

still do immense damage if it ever struck given its 143,000-ton heft, releasing the energy equivalent of 2.4 million tons of TNT and wiping out 750 square miles.

By comparison, NASA estimated that the meteor that exploded over Russia was much smaller — about 49 feet wide and 7,000 tons before it hit the atmosphere, or one-third the size of the passing asteroid. As for the back-to-back events, "this is indeed very rare and it is historic," said Jim Green, NASA's director of planetary science.

"These fireballs happen about once a day or so, but we just don't see them because many of them fall over the ocean or in remote areas. This one was an exception."

As the countdown for the asteroid's close approach entered the final hours, NASA noted that the path

of the meteor appeared to be quite different than that of the asteroid, making the two objects "completely unrelated." The meteor seemed to be traveling from north to south, while the asteroid passed from south to north — in the opposite direction.

Most of the solar system's asteroids are situated in a belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, and remain stable there for billions of years. Some occasionally pop out, though, into Earth's neighborhood. NASA scientists estimate that an object of this size makes a close approach like this every 40 years. The likelihood of a strike is every 1,200 years.

The flyby provides a rare learning opportunity for scientists eager to keep future asteroids at bay — and a prime-time advertisement for those anxious to step up preventive measures.

Friday's meteor further strengthened the asteroid-alert message.

"We are in a shooting gallery and this is graphic evidence of it," said former Apollo astronaut Rusty Schweickart, chairman emeritus of the B612 Foundation, committed to protecting Earth from dangerous asteroids.

Schweickart noted that 500,000 to 1 million sizable near-Earth objects — asteroids or comets — are out there. Yet less than 1 percent — fewer than 10,000 — have been inventoried. Humanity has to do better, he said. The foundation is working to build and launch an infrared space telescope to find and track

threatening asteroids.

If a killer asteroid was, indeed, incoming, a spacecraft could, in theory, be launched to nudge the asteroid out of Earth's way, changing its speed and the point of intersection. A second spacecraft would make a slight alteration in the path of the asteroid and ensure it never intersects with the planet again, Schweickart said.

Asteroid DA14 — discovered by Spanish astronomers only last February — is "such a close call" that it is a "celestial torpedo across the bow of spaceship Earth," Schweickart said in a phone interview Thursday.

NASA's deep-space antenna in California's Mojave Desert was ready to collect radar images, but not until eight hours after the closest approach given the United States' poor positioning for the big event. Scientists at NASA's Near-Earth Object program at California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory estimate that an object of this size makes a close approach like this every 40 years. The likelihood of a strike is every 1,200 years. □

## Study: Fish in drug-tainted water suffer reaction

JEFF DONN

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — What happens to fish that swim in waters tainted by traces of drugs that people take? When it's an anti-anxiety drug, they become hyper, anti-social and aggressive, a Swedish study found.

It may sound funny, but it could threaten the fish population and upset the delicate dynamics of the marine environment, scientists say. The findings, published online Thursday in the journal *Science*, add to the mounting evidence that minuscule amounts of medicines in rivers and streams can alter the biology and behavior of fish and other marine animals. "I think people are starting to understand that phar-

maceuticals are environmental contaminants," said Dana Kolpin, a researcher for the U.S. Geological Survey who is familiar with the study.

Calling their results alarming, the researchers who did the study suspect the little drugged fish could become easier targets for bigger fish because they are more likely to venture alone into unfamiliar places. "We know that in a predator-prey relation, increased boldness and activity combined with decreased sociality ... means you're going to be somebody's lunch quite soon," said Gregory Moller, a toxicologist at the University of Idaho and Washington State University. "It removes the natural balance." □

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## Judge sets May trial date for Kardashian divorce

**ANTHONY McCARTNEY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kim Kardashian has a due date for her baby and now a trial date for her divorce from basketball player Kris Humphries.

A judge on Friday set a May 6 trial for the reality TV star who wants to end her marriage before July, when her child with Kanye West is due.

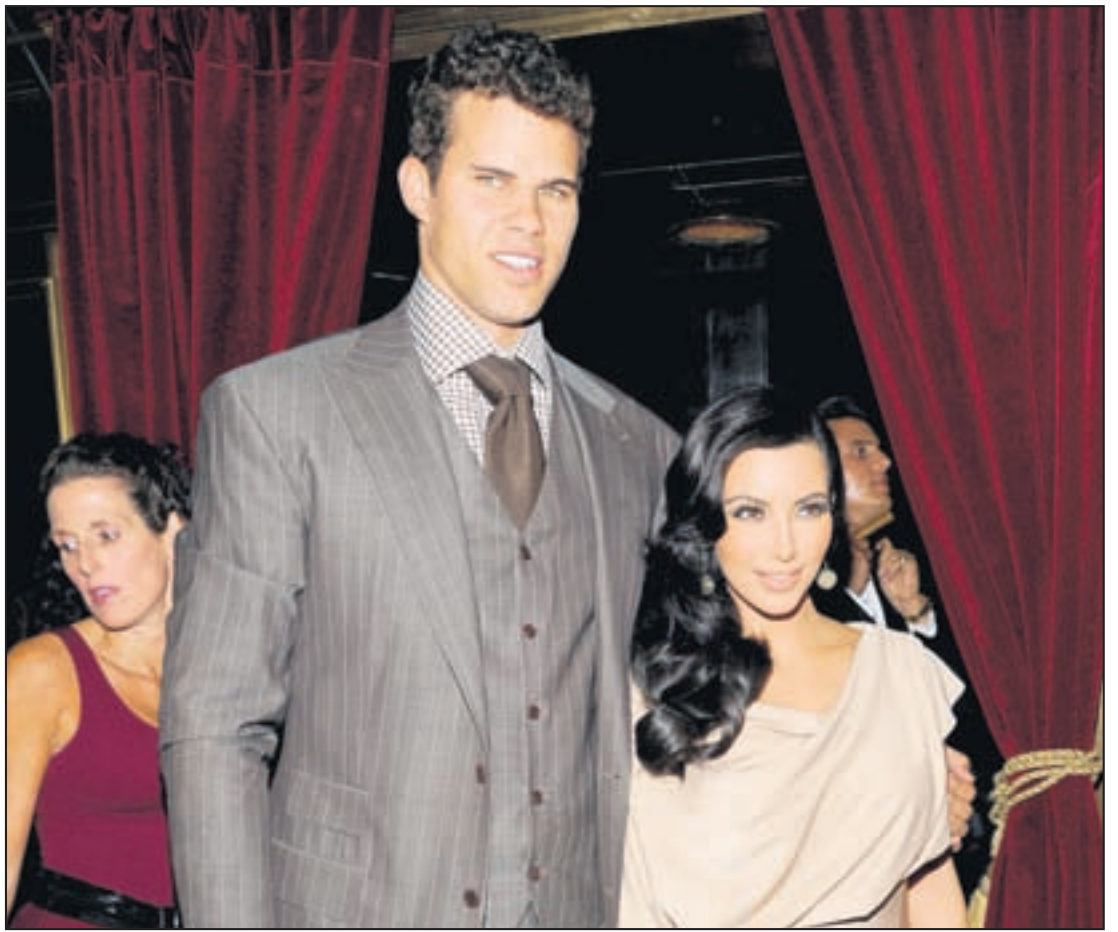
Kardashian filed for divorce on Oct. 31, 2011, after she and Humphries had been

married just 72 days. Their lavish, star-studded nuptials were recorded and broadcast.

Humphries wants the marriage annulled based on his claim that Kardashian only married him for the sake of her show. She denies that allegation.

The trial could reveal details about Kardashian's reality show empire, which includes "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and several spinoffs.

Two judges determined Fri-



This Aug. 31, 2011 file photo shows Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries attending a party thrown in their honor at Capitale in New York.

Associated Press

## Man who helped created 'Underdog' cartoon dies



In this July 30, 2007 file photo, William Watts Biggers arrives for the premiere of the "Underdog" movie in New York. Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The co-creator of the cartoon "Underdog," the mild-mannered shoeshine boy who turned into a caped superhero to rescue his girlfriend, Sweet Polly Purebred, has died. William Watts Biggers was 85.

Family friend Derek Tague says Biggers, who went by "Buck," died unexpectedly at his Massachusetts home on Sunday.

Biggers worked for the New York City advertising firm DFS when he accepted an assignment from the agency's largest client, General Mills, to create television cartoons to promote its breakfast cereals. The most famous was "Underdog," which debuted on NBC in

1964.

After General Mills pulled out of the animation business, Biggers became vice president of promotion and creative services at NBC.

He was also a novelist and writer.

He is survived by a son and daughter. □

day that Humphries' lawyers had adequate time to prepare for the trial.

Humphries' attorney Marshall Waller asked for a delay until basketball season is over, but that was rejected.

Waller filed paperwork Thursday to withdraw from the case but didn't mention that development in court and refused to answer any questions about the document on Friday.

Waller said he was still hop-

ing to obtain and review 13,000 hours of footage from Kardashian's reality shows to try to prove the fraud claim but noted he does not yet have an agreement to receive the footage. □



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# Film fans in Asia want light fun, make Oscars wait

PETER ENAV

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Lights, camera, laughs.

Tens of millions of film fanatics are entering theaters around Asia during the long Lunar New Year holiday, but Hollywood can't count on them to boost the box office for its mostly serious Oscar nominees. Even with the Academy Awards buzz at a peak barely two weeks before the ceremony, patrons are opting for lighter fare.

"Viewers are mostly drawn to action films, films with special effects, comedies or easy-to-follow 'popcorn' movies," said Ross Lee, a manager with Vieshow Cinemas, which owns one of Taiwan's largest theater chains. "In Taiwan the big hits are traditionally disaster films like '2012.'"

Lee and others say that with Chinese movie-goers using the New Year holiday to escape their daily grinds, they generally give the cold shoulder to weightier movies, like this year's leading nominee "Lincoln" or last year's best picture "The Artist."

"'Lincoln' is an American film," said Hong Kong film fan Leo Wong, 31. "I think Americans will probably be



In this Wednesday Feb. 13, 2013 photo, a woman stands in front of the advertisements of Chinese and foreign films on showing at a movie theater in Shanghai, China.

Associated Press

more interested. I don't really understand the history. And it's too serious."

Reflecting Wong's critique, Hong Kong's film industry goes out of its way to pander to the local preference for lighter New Year's selections, turning out a sub-genre of films specifically designed with holiday tastes in mind.

This year's Hong Kong holiday crop includes "Journey to the West: Conquering the Demons," a prequel to the classic Chinese fable, and "I Love Hong Kong 2013," a super-light comedy with an all-star

cast and a crowd-pleasing happy ending.

Explaining her preference for watching locally produced comedies, Hong Kong movie-goer Christine Lam said it reinforced the spirit of the season.

"You want to do this on Chinese New Year," she said, "to watch Chinese movies instead of Western ones because it gives you the vibe." Chimed in husband Andy Lam: "(New Year comedies) are funny and we have a lot of fun. We just laugh." Sun Shao-yi of Shanghai University's School of Film and

TV Arts and Technology said in addition to aesthetic considerations, Oscar nominees vying for attention on the mainland must also contend with officially sanctioned blackouts.

"Authorities limit the number of Western films showing during the New Year period," Sun said. "They have to do this to protect the local market."

But even allowing for the artistic and administrative roadblocks, some Oscar-nominated films do manage to make a big impact in Chinese-speaking markets during the New Year holiday, particularly if they are accompanied by a positive critical buzz.

Christine Lam said she had decided to use this year's holiday to see "Les Misérables," notwithstanding its relatively heavy subject matter. "This is a very famous movie and people are talking about this movie very much," she said, adding that the film's much ballyhooed operatic style and live singing by actors had tipped the balance in its favor.

In Taipei, trading firm owner Thomas Huang said his own preference for thrillers made going to see "Zero Dark Thirty" an easy

viewing choice. He said he also took in local hero Ang Lee's "Life of Pi," the special effect-rich story of a young man's epic journey of discovery, "half because Ang Lee is Taiwanese and half because of the Oscar nominations."

Huang saw best-picture front-runner "Argo" previously and would not miss other nominated films if trusted critics endorsed them. He said he's captivated by the pomp of the Oscar-nomination ceremony, which raised his interest in the nominated films as well.

"You don't count on the Oscar awards as a guarantee a film is good, but they are still generally up to a certain standard," he said. Taiwanese film critic Wen Tien-hsiang said that even if some Oscar-nominated films did not do well with Chinese-speaking audiences during the New Year holiday period, scoring big on Oscar night would help to guarantee them substantial audiences later.

"Films winning awards will definitely gain them viewer attention," Wen said in an email. "Film companies sometimes decide to screen Oscar winners only after they get the prize." □



In this June 26, 2012 file photo, actor Charlie Sheen attends the FX Summer Comedies Party at Lure in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Charlie Sheen pays for injured teen's therapy dog

CARRIE ANTLFINGER

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — There's a 15-year-old Florida girl who didn't really know much about Charlie Sheen before this week — but does now.

The actor wired \$10,000 to Teagan Marti and her family on Thursday for a therapy dog to help in her rehabilitation from injuries sustained when she plummeted 100 feet from a Wisconsin amusement park ride in 2010.

"I think he's a very kind person for helping me and my family and very generous," Teagan said by phone

Thursday from her home in Parkland, Florida.

Teagan suffered brain, spine, pelvis and internal injuries in July 2010 when nets and air bags that were supposed to catch riders on a free-fall ride were not raised. She had convinced her family to make the trip from Florida to Extreme World in Wisconsin Dells after seeing the amusement park's Terminal Velocity ride on the Travel Channel. She was hospitalized in Wisconsin and Florida for three months. She initially had no use of her arms or legs but through physical therapy is able to walk again with a

walker.

Teagan's mother, Julie Marti, said they are financially in trouble from the medical bills and her recent divorce.

Their house is being foreclosed upon and insurance isn't covering physical therapy anymore, she said. She had no idea how they would pay for the English Golden Retriever puppy.

"I'm in such disbelief," Julie Marti said.

"I was crying. ... What a guy. What a guy."

The dog is being trained to turn on lights, pick up objects and be the teen's constant companion. □



## The 'Die Hard' Quandary



JOE NOCERA  
© 2013 New York Times

Later this week, the fifth installment of the "Die Hard" movies is scheduled to open in theaters across the country.

"A Good Day to Die Hard" stars, once again, Bruce Willis as John McClane, a too-stubborn-for-his-own-good cop who has to stop a highly trained army of bad guys out to wreak destruction and death.

It will undoubtedly be a giant hit for Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., the owner of the "Die Hard" franchise.

In promoting the new movie, both the Regal and AMC movie chains are holding "Die Hard" marathons on Wednesday. Starting at noon, an AMC theatergoer can spend 12 straight hours watching all five "Die Hard" movies.

That's a lot of "Die Hard." Among the guns used – and used, and used, and used – in just the first "Die Hard" are a Steyr AUG assault rifle, a Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine gun and a Walther PPK pistol with silencer. McClane himself relies on a Beretta 92 semi-automatic pistol in the first three movies, and a Sig Sauer P220 in the more recent films. (He also favors the bald look in the last two movies.)

Of course, it is cartoonish violence, in the sense that rarely – in all the innumerable killings – is blood seen pouring out of the victims, or does anyone cry out in anguish and pain. Incredibly, the Motion Picture Association of America judges foul language to be more problematic for children than this kind of bloodless violence, which perhaps explains why the 2007 installment, "Live Free or Die Hard," was rated PG-13: the normally foul-mouthed McClane barely swears in it. (The new one has reclaimed its traditional R.)

What got me thinking about "Die Hard" – and guns in the movies more generally – is, of course, the furious gun debate since the killings in Newtown, Conn.

On one side are those who believe we can cut down on gun violence by, among other things, banning the assault weapons that always seem to be used in mass shootings.

On the other side are the Second Amendment absolutists, who argue that the real problem is the culture, soaked in so much violent imagery that it is virtually impossible to avoid.

They add that a ban on assault weapons would be the beginning of a slippery slope that would ultimately lead to a ban on weapons of every kind.

It's not that I don't want to see a ban on assault weapons. I sincerely do.

But after poking around the world of gun-crazed movies and other media, I have to say, the Second Amendment absolutists have a point.

For instance, when you ask a spokesman for the MPAA about the real-world effect of gun imagery in the movies, he actually pushes back by claiming that "there is a predominance of findings that show there is no consistent or convincing evidence that exposure causes people to be more violent."

This is, quite simply, untrue. "There is tons of research on this," says Joanne Cantor, professor emerita of communications at the University of Wisconsin, and an expert on the effect of violent movies and video games.

"Watching violence makes kids feel they can use violence to solve a problem.

It brings increased feelings of hostility. It increases desensitization."

Every parent understands this instinctively, of course, but those instincts are backed by decades of solid research.

There is a second reason many people – indeed, many of the same people who would like to ban assault weapons – shrink from demanding changes in the culture's tolerance for violent images.

To do anything about it legislatively would likely violate the First Amendment.

Just as an assault weapon ban is the slippery slope for Second Amendment advocates, efforts to restrict violent images – or pornography, for that matter – is the slippery slope for First Amendment absolutists.

Craig Anderson, a psychologist at Iowa State University, told me that children who watch even something as seemingly benign as Woody Woodpecker cartoons – in which Woody often pecks on someone's head – can become temporarily more aggressive. "If you are going to start to ban media violence, where do you stop?" he asked.

Violent video games and movies, he went on to say, are certainly not the only factor that can lead someone to commit an act of gun violence.

"If someone has no other risk factors, he can play Grand Theft Auto all day and never commit a violent act.

But if he has a number of the other risk factors. ..." Anderson let the thought hang.

On Monday, I called an AMC spokesman to ask if his company was worried about its customers watching nonstop shootings for 12 straight hours.

"We are very excited about the 'Die Hard' marathon," he replied.

"It will be a great time for our guests."

He added, however, that the company had its "security measures in place."

Just, you know, in case. □



## When ET And IT Meet ID



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
© 2013 New York Times

NEW DELHI – Every time I visit India, I visit Nasscom, the high-tech association, to meet with the newest crop of Indian innovators. They account for only a tiny fraction of India's 1.2 billion people, most of whom remain painfully poor, but I focus on these Indian innovators because so many of them today are focused on making India unpoor. India is now spawning large numbers of innovators concentrating on solving poor-world problems, and cloud-based technology tools and open-source platforms are enabling Indian innovators to do this with little capital. As a result, they are much more willing to try, fail and try again (the secret sauce of Silicon Valley). And, as a result, we're starting to see a merger here between ET, IT and ID. It doesn't get any better than that. There is nothing that India needs more than an energy technology (ET) revolution that would deliver cheap, reliable power to millions suffering from energy poverty. If every village had some reliable power, plus access to high-speed Internet (IT), hundreds of millions of Indians would be able to live locally but act globally – that is, they would be able to remain in their villages, yet have access to the education and markets that could enable them to escape poverty and not have to join the hordes in the megacities of the megacities like Mumbai or Kolkata. The most exciting ET innovation I saw here was Gram Power. Some 400 million people in In-

dia do not have access to grid-based power and, therefore, rely on kerosene, which releases tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and claims about 1.5 million Indian lives a year. Gram Power has developed an answer, says its co-founder Yashraj Khaitan: "Our Smart Microgrid system comprises renewable-based generation infrastructure installed locally in the village (usually solar panels on a cell phone tower), and a proprietary smart electricity distribution system that tackles the three main challenges of reliable energy access in India: theft and pilferage that forms the root cause for 58 percent of energy losses on the utility grid, high capital costs to extend the utility grid to remote low population areas, and intermittent and unpredictable power supply." The Gram Power system comes at a capital cost, Khaitan added of "less than that of a solar home system, with a prepaid pricing model suited to our consumers' disposable income – for just 20 cents per day of recharge, consumers can operate lights, fans, radios, and televisions." The smart meters "prevent people from over-drawing power and intelligently prioritize different loads based on local conditions." Having succeeded with their pilot, Gram Power is on pace to reach 20,000 homes and have 100 telecom towers covered with solar panels for generation in the next year. The most interesting IT project I came across was Mettl, which has developed an online assessment platform to help hiring managers "to measure and track skills of pre-hires and employees" to determine if they can really do a particular job. Mettl can "measure the hard skills which are directly applicable to a job rather than just the knowledge which you have acquired by rote," said its co-founder Ketan Kapoor.

"Up to now," he added "you could not measure what you can do with what you know. But unless you can apply your knowl-

edge to a level that is useful, it doesn't mean anything. Knowledge is a commodity available to anyone. It is not a differentiator anymore in the professional market. The differentiator is what you can do with that knowledge." Mettl is also developing a proctoring program for Internet-based distance learning so a young person in a remote Indian village could be reliably tested on a body of knowledge and the teacher given immediate feedback. "We are positive that we shall be able to solve the remote proctoring problem and disrupt the online learning and assessment space." Now marry these breakthroughs in ET and IT with one in ID. Nandan Nilekani, a co-founder of Infosys, has been leading India's Unique Identification project, which aims to give every Indian who wants one a unique 12-digit ID number, backed by photographs, fingerprints and iris scans that can be easily verified online. The system is creating a platform that enables the government to give aid, salaries, health care and pensions much more directly to citizens without worrying it will be siphoned off by corrupt officials or fake IDs. Some 270 million Indians have acquired an ID, with about 1 million signing up per day, or as, Nilekani says, "one Finland a week." Once every Indian has a "robust real identity" based in the cloud, Nilekani told me, you have "a platform" upon which you can build all kinds of services – from cash transfers to health records to open online courses. In sum, when ET meets IT meets ID, you have a virtuous cycle that potentially can compete with the cycle of energy poverty, broken schools and corruption.

While success at scale for these start-ups is by no means assured, they are a taste of what is possible when so many more people on the planet can become inventors, makers and problem-solvers.

Anyone who thinks the age of innovation is over isn't paying attention. □



# The Catwalk: You Have To Be There To Feel It

CATHY HORYN

© 2013 New York Times

**NEW YORK** – Much of fashion is now designed, produced and experienced on a computer. When Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler held up a fuzzy sweater seamlessly connected to a leather hem and said, "It's done on a computer," he meant that literally. A machine had been programmed to punch fine hairs of yarn into leather until the harder surface of the leather gradually dissolved into a soft knit.

In a matter of a few seasons, Hernandez and his partner, Jack McCollough, have become the best sleight-of-hand artists in U.S. fashion. Some of their tricks are not successful, but they are willing to take that risk. In the prehistoric '30s, designers also had to try new fabrics and techniques before they got things right.

Today what the visual consumer of fashion loses – and that's the majority of people, including die-hard fashionistas – is the tactile experience.

The best digital imagery cannot capture the granular, snow-crust texture of a woven tulle skirt in the Proenza lineup or the compacted quality of a boucle that the designers successfully used for coats and jackets. Even to the naked eye, the boucle looks like something sinisterly industrial. You have to touch it. High fashion has always been the preserve of the intrepid few and the babied rich, but at a time when shows are accessible to anyone with a smartphone – and when designers and their image-makers are adept at styling up a collection for a visual jolt – the sense of touch becomes an experience that can't easily be shared. That's interesting

in a business that is always seeking exclusivity.

The recent designs of McCollough and Hernandez are also proof of the long-term value of fabric research.

A year or two ago they did some woven leather pieces that looked amazing but frankly felt stiff. They refined the idea, and this time they

Ralph Lauren went to the merchant marine, or a chic facsimile of pea jackets, sailor pants, leather and salty-dog knits. Dressed in the style himself for his bow, Lauren will invite headlines like "The Old Man and the Sea." Well, he's the boss. The masculine bits of the show looked familiar, but swirls of Bordeaux, black and deep-green

Elevating the blouse for evening was a nice touch, but one wished she had kept that mood going a bit longer before the fancy skirts swept in.

It's easy to question a designer's style when it changes often or the clothes look pretty but lack authority, as Reed Krakoff's so often have since he started his label. But he ap-

pears to have finally relaxed. Largely a contemporary uniform, with lanky jackets, V-necks and shells in knits or fur, and cool wear-forever wrap skirts with deep paneled hems, this collection seemed more fully realized and grown-up, and not stuck on minimalist theory. The Calvin Klein models looked very good in their wide-belted, somber wool coats and matching flared skirts, despite the conspicuous bulk of the wools and alpacas.

Francisco Costa was clearly out to make a

statement of female strength – in the belted bandeau tops that crisscrossed in back, in the black boots that were a blend of biker and couture, in the mega belt buckles. And just when the oversize cut of the clothes seemed too much, the scale suddenly became

the point. Costa did many things with this collection.

He created grid effects with creases.

He pumped up volumes. And he recast some of those masculine styles for leaner evening styles, like a black blazer with wide satin pants. But ultimately, he hammered out a demanding silhouette. □



**A model wears a round-shouldered jacket in wool boucle by Proenza Schouler during a runway show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York. High fashion has always been the preserve of the intrepid few and the babied rich, but at a time when shows are accessible to anyone with a smartphone, the sense of touch becomes an experience that can't easily be shared.**

(Josh Haner/The New York Times)

created coats and dresses in woven suede and leather, the pattern resembling tweed.

A kind of lace made from satin-back crepe heated to a biscuit hardness was less successful, in my view. Still, the idea may lead them somewhere else.

There is also greater harmony this season between the fabrics and shapes, especially those pieces made in the boucle and tulle, and some easy-fitting dresses in white wool crepe buttoned to one side and shown with knit dickeys. (The dresses will be produced in longer lengths for stores, the designers said.) Those styles, along with clean, round-shoulder coats and jackets, hint of vintage couture – I was thinking early Givenchy – but they are appealing all the same. The newer fabrics just make them surprising.

taffeta with delicate pleating were worth the wait – and worthy of a modern red carpet.

Georgia Chapman's gowns for Marchesa dominate red carpets, and she is capable of the most feathery confections, or something grander. Blood-red Goya was her muse this time, and she handled the historical references cleverly, and with up-to-date verve, as she combined an embroidered white suede corset with a white gauze shirt and suede pencil skirt, or naked-looking tulle with red-satin tailoring.